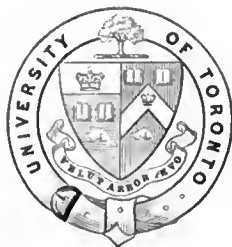




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ANNALS  
OF  
COMMERCE,  
MANUFACTURES, FISHERIES, AND NAVIGATION,  
WITH  
BRIEF NOTICES OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES CONNECTED WITH THEM.  
CONTAINING THE  
COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS  
OF THE  
BRITISH EMPIRE AND OTHER COUNTRIES,  
FROM THE EARLIEST ACCOUNTS TO THE MEETING OF THE UNION PARLIAMENT IN JANUARY 1801;  
AND COMPRISING THE MOST VALUABLE PART OF THE LATE MR. ANDERSON'S HISTORY OF COMMERCE, VIZ. FROM THE YEAR 1492  
TO THE END OF THE REIGN OF GEORGE II. KING OF GREAT BRITAIN, &c.  
WITH A LARGE APPENDIX,

CONTAINING  
CHRONOLOGICAL TABLES OF THE SOVEREIGNS OF EUROPE, | A CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF THE PRICES OF CORN, &c. and  
TABLES OF THE ALTERATIONS OF MONEY IN ENGLAND AND | A COMMERCIAL AND MANUFACTURAL GAZETTEER OF THE  
SCOTLAND, | UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND;

WITH A GENERAL CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX.

*The Antient Part composed from the most authentic Original Historians and Public Records,  
printed and in Manuscript; and the modern Part from Materials of unquestionable  
Authenticity (mostly unpublished) extracted from the Records of Parliament,  
the Accounts of the Custom-house, the Mint, the Board of Trade, the  
Post-office, the East-India Company, the Bank of England,  
&c. &c.*

By DAVID MACPHERSON.

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IN FOUR VOLUMES.

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VOL. III.

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## THE THIRD VOLUME CONTAINS

(THE CONTINUATION OF PART II)

The Commercial Transactions of the British Empire and other Countries, from the Union of the Kingdoms of England and Scotland to the End of the Reign of George II, King of Great Britain, &c. originally written by the late Mr. Anderson, who related the Events of this Period chiefly from his own Observation, and now re-edited, with the Retrenchment of Superfluous Matter, with Additions, and with Amendments.

AND

(PART III)

The Commercial Transactions of the British Empire and other Countries, from the Commencement of the Reign of his present Majesty, George III, King of Great Britain and Ireland, to the End of the Year 1782; composed from Materials of unquestionable Authenticity (mostly unpublished) extracted from the Records of Parliament, the Accounts of the Custom-House, the Mint, the Board of Trade, the Post Office, the East-India Company, the Bank of England, &c. &c..

11

ANNALS  
OF  
COMMERCE.

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A. D. 1708.

THE old law of the first year of King James I, for garbling spices and drugs in London, (which we did not judge worth while then to recite), being in length of time found to be not only useless for the most part, but often prejudicial, was now repealed: and an equivalent given to the city of London for the profits formerly made by the garbler's office, by laying a tax of 40*s* yearly, to be paid to the chamberlain of London by all brokers, who, if acting as such without regular admittance, were now to forfeit £25. Nevertheless, the lord mayor, aldermen, and common council may, if they so judge fit, appoint a person to be garbler; who, at the request of the owner of any spices, drugs, &c. garbleable, and not otherwise, shall garble the same, for such fee as the lord mayor, &c. shall appoint.

In this same year, the British revenue being under the management of so able and upright a lord-treasurer as the earl of Godolphin, the credit of the public was on so good a footing, that it was judged advisable to avail the nation thereof, by reducing the rate of interest on the debt of two millions due to the East-India company. This was done by a statute for assuring to the English company trading to the East-Indies, on account of the united stock, a longer time in the fund and trade.—And for raising thereby £1,200,000 for her majesty's occasions.



Hereby the united company now advanced £1,200,000 without any additional interest; so as for the whole capital, now consisting of £3,200,000, they should thenceforth receive of the public but 5 per cent interest, or £160,000. per annum: 'On condition, that the term of their exclusive trade to India should be prolonged for fourteen years and an half longer; that is to say, whereas, by the law of 1698, they were to be redeemable upon three years notice after 1711, and repayment of principal and interest, their redemption was now prolonged to three years notice after Lady-day 1726. And for enabling the company to make good this loan to the public, they were by this act impowered to borrow as far as £1,500,000 on bonds, over and above what they were legally impowered to do before, and also to make calls of money from their proprietors. The proprietors of the £7200 in separate trade, may still continue so to trade till Michaelmas 1711, when the united company may, on three years notice, pay the same off; whereby their privileges of trading shall be solely vested in the company. By this act, that part of the act of the 12th of King William, which laid a duty of 5 per cent on goods exported to India, was to cease from Michaelmas 1714. And, in order that a speedy and complete union between the old and new companies might be effected, in pursuance of the indenture tripartite of the year 1702, the final determination of all matters in difference between the said companies, and the completing of their union was hereby referred to the earl of Godolphin, lord high treasurer of Great Britain, as his lordship should think fit, by an award in writing, under his hand and seal: the whole to be completed, and the old company's charter to be surrendered, by Michaelmas 1708; after which, the company's stile and title to be, *The united company of merchants of England trading to the East-Indies.*' [6 Ann. c. 17.]

It is almost needless to remark, that much clamour was raised against this renewal of the exclusive privileges of trading to India, as was naturally to be expected, and had always before happened on every such renewal. Many pamphlets were published for inducing the legislature to lay that trade open; or, at least, to let Bristol, Liverpool, Hull, and other great trading towns, into a proportionable share of it. It was plausibly said, that it was hard, London alone should engross all this vast commerce, whereas the Dutch East-India company comprehended six of their towns therein, in the year 1602, when that company was first settled on its present establishment. But the (at least equally plausible) answer was, that, as it is a transferrable stock, every person in the three kingdoms might freely purchase shares therein. It is also needless farther to remark, that the like clamour was afterward renewed, as often as the legislature was applied to for a farther prolongation of their ex-

clusive privileges; and this, probably, will continue to be the case in any future application for the like purpose.

To complete all that is needful to be known concerning the union of the two East-India companies, we shall here farther note, that the following regulations were in consequence thereof made, viz.

I) For every L100 old stock, there was given L100 : 8 : 10 stock in the united company.

II) Twenty-five one half per cent was made a call on the proprietors of the old company, for enabling them to be joined to the united one.

III) The remaining debts owing to, and effects of, the old company were vested in trustees for the benefit of the proprietors of the old company, who were such at the time of uniting with the new one.

By a statute [6 Ann. c. 22] for continuing several duties therein mentioned, upon coffee, &c.; and for securing the credit of the bank of England, &c.; it was, amongst many other points, enacted, 'that during the continuance of the governor and company of the bank of England, it should not be lawful for any body-politic, erected or to be erected, other than the said governor and company of the bank of England, or, for other persons whatsoever, united or to be united in covenants or partnership, exceeding the number of six persons, in that part of Great Britain called England, to borrow, owe, or take up any sum or sums of money on their bills or notes, payable on demand, or in any less time than six months from the borrowing thereof.' The reason assigned for this enacting clause, was, 'that some corporations, (notwithstanding the law of the 8th year of King William, [c. 19] by colour of their charters, and other great numbers of persons, by pretence of deeds or covenants, united together, had presumed to borrow great sums of money, and therewith to deal as a bank, to the apparent danger of the established credit of the kingdom.'

This clause was principally aimed at the mine-adventure company, who, contrary to law, had set up for banking, and issued cash-notes, &c. as has been already related.

This year the island of Minorca, with its commodious haven of Port-Mahon, and its strong fort of St. Philip, belonging to Spain; was subdued by the British forces, commanded by Major-general Stanhope. By possession thereof, (as Mr. Burchett, in his Naval history observes,) 'we have the advantage of a goodly harbour, which, during the war, was exceeding useful to us, (as it may hereafter be on the like occasion) in cleaning and refitting such of our ships as were employed in the Mediterranean: and not only magazines of stores were lodged there for that purpose, but such officers were appointed to reside on the place as were judged requisite.'

The French king intending this year an invasion of Scotland, for supporting the pretender's claim, there ensued a great demand, or run,

as it is usually termed, on the bank of England : and the credit thereof being so nearly connected with that of the exchequer, the Lord-treasurer Godolphin, for applying an effectual remedy thereto, signified to the directors of the bank, that the queen would, for six months, allow an interest of 6 per cent on their sealed bills, which till then bore only 3 per cent. Moreover, his lordship, and the dukes of Marlborough, Newcastle, and Somerset, and sundry other lords, offered to advance to the bank considerable sums of money : by which encouragement, and their making a call of 20 per cent on their capital, the bank was enabled to weather that storm, and to preserve their credit.

In the same year, a like statute for the register of deeds, conveyances, wills, devises, mortgages, &c. in the east-riding of Yorkshire, was made, as had been made for the west-riding of the same county four years before, and for much the same reasons as were assigned for that ; only the necessity of such a register is, in the present act, expressed somewhat stronger. It is therein said, ' that the lands in the east-riding, and ' in the town and county of the town of Kingston upon Hull, being ' generally freehold, they may be so secretly transferred or conveyed ' from one person to another, that such as are ill-disposed have it in ' their power to commit frauds, and frequently do so, by means where- ' of several persons, who through many years industry in their trades ' and employments, and by great frugality, have been enabled to pur- ' chase lands, or to lend monies on land security, have been undone in ' their purchases and mortgages, by prior and secret conveyances, and ' fraudulent incumbrances ; and not only themselves, but their whole ' families thereby utterly ruined. All the provisions and clauses in this ' act, were hereby extended to the honors, manors, lands, and tenements, ' in the west-riding of that county, the two former acts relating to it ' being found defective in several particulars.' [6 *Ann. c. 25*.]

Loud complaints being at this time made against the London pawn-brokers, on account of their grinding the faces of the poor by the extravagant usury they took for pledges or pawns, even the most moderate of them taking at least 30 per cent, and some twice as much, an application was made to the crown for a charter to incorporate a number of persons of credit, which they obtained this year, under the name of the charitable corporation for lending money to the industrious, but necessitous, poor at a moderate interest. Yet, as their capital was but £30,000, they did not sufficiently extend their scheme until the year 1719, when several gentlemen of fortune came into it. Their conditions for lending were only 10 per cent, viz. 5 per cent as for mere interest, and the other 5 per cent for supporting the expense of the corporation, such as house and ware-house rent, salaries of officers and servants, &c. In 1725 they obtained from the crown a farther augmentation of their capital, and soon after another : and their directors pro-



ceeded to borrow large sums of money for the support of their scheme. But, in a few years after, a discovery was made of many and great frauds committed by their servants, such as, loans on fictitious pawns, embezzlements, &c. which occasioned a parliamentary inquiry; the result of which was, that by such frauds and mismanagements, the corporation had not effects sufficient to pay even but a small part of the money they had borrowed at interest of a great number of persons, many of whom were thereby reduced to great distress; the whole amounting to £487,895 : 14 : 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ , to answer which, there remained no more in money and other effects, than £34,150 : 13 : 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ , excepting what might be recovered from the debtors of the corporation, which (says the statute after-named) was then uncertain. Hereupon, the house of commons expelled such of their members as were directors thereof; most of whom had, in other respects, retained till then fair characters. And, in the year 1733, the parliament, [6 *Geo. II. c. 35*] granted a lottery for £500,000 for the relief of such of the sufferers as should appear to five masters in chancery, therein named, to be objects of compassion; out of which £25 per cent was deducted, and in the following year distributed amongst the sufferers, amounting, after all the expense of this lottery was deducted, to 9/9 per pound of their loss, by an act of the 8th of King George II. *c. 11.* in 1734. Since which time, that ill-conducted corporation retains nothing but its empty name.

1709.—The general naturalization in England of foreign protestants, has been variously reasoned upon by many persons, in different periods. In the beginning of the year 1709, a bill was ordered into the house of commons for that end; in favour of which, it was argued, that very great benefits would thereby accrue to Britain; that the king of Prussia, by inviting the French refugees to settle in his dominions, had fertilized a barren and ill-peopled country, improved its trade and manufactures, and increased his own revenues, &c. The preamble of the act, [7 *Ann. c. 5.*] for naturalizing foreign protestants, therefor, observes, that, whereas the increase of people is a means of advancing the wealth and strength of a nation; it was therefor enacted,—I) that all persons born out of the ligeance of her majesty, who shall take and subscribe the oaths, and the declaration of the 6th of this reign, shall be deemed, adjudged, and taken to be her majesty's natural-born subjects: provided they shall have received the sacrament of the Lord's supper in some protestant or reformed congregation within this kingdom of Great Britain within three months before their taking the said oaths, and shall produce a certificate signed by the person administering the said sacrament, and attested by two credible witnesses.

II) That the children of all natural-born subjects, though born out of the ligeance of her majesty, her heirs, and successors, shall be deemed

and adjudged to be natural-born subjects of this kingdom to all intents, constructions, and purposes whatsoever. And,

III) The like naturalization of foreign protestants shall take place in Ireland.\* This law was said to have been made with a particular view to the protestant Palatines brought this year into England.

For, in May in this same year, near 7000 of the poor Palatines and Swabians, who had been utterly ruined, and driven from their habitations near the Rhine by the French, were, in compassion of their misery, brought over to England, and were soon after followed by more : but without any settled or concerted plan for their establishment any where. Had they been all immediately transported to some of our American continental colonies, as some proposed, they would before now have proved a considerable addition to our strength in those parts. Others proposed to settle them in the New forest of Hampshire, where land might be parcelled out for them by shares or lots. It was doubtless an ill-conducted, though well-meant affair. However, being landed, there was a necessity of keeping them from perishing. A sufficient number of tents was erected for them on Blackheath, and near Camberwell, and a brief was granted for a collection for them throughout Great Britain. Some of them were taken into private families ; 500 families of them were sent into Ireland, where £24,000 was granted by parliament for their support ; 3000 of them were at length sent over to New-York, and settled upon Hudson's river ; many of whom being badly received there, removed to Pennsylvania, where they were most kindly entertained by the quakers, which afterwards proved the means of drawing thither many thousands of German and Switz protestants, whereby Pennsylvania is since become by far the most populous and flourishing colony (for its standing) of any in British America.

During all this reign, the bank of England was found extremely convenient and useful in supporting the national credit : the better, therefore, to enable that corporation to be farther beneficial to the public, as well as to themselves, by assisting in raising the supplies for the current service of the year 1709, the bank was encouraged to propose to the house of commons a scheme for circulating £2,500,000 of exchequer bills : in which year, the whole supply voted, amounted to above seven millions. An act of parliament, therefor, passed in this year, ' for enlarging the capital stock of the bank of England, and for raising a farther supply to her majesty for the service of the year 1709 ; wherein the act for the first establishment of the bank, and all the subsequent statutes are in part recited. And that the bank continues to permit new subscriptions for the doubling of their present stock of £2,201,171 : 10, by selling their said additional stock at the rate of £115 for every £100 subscribed.' [7 *Ann. c. 7.*] The whole was subscribed for between the

\* This clause is farther explained by the act 4 *Geo. II, c. 21.* A.

A. D. 1709.

hours of nine in the morning and one in the afternoon on the first day of opening the subscription books. This was by foreigners esteemed a proof of the great wealth of the nation, more especially as near one million more would have been subscribed on the same day, had there been room for it, so great was the crowd of people coming with their money to the books. But, like the East-India company, the bank hereby obliged themselves to advance to the government L400,000, without any additional allowance of interest for that sum, which made their original capital of L1,200,000, at 8 per cent, amount to L1,600,000 at 6 per cent interest, to commence from the 1st of August 1711, being their original yearly fund. And as the bank had 6 per cent per annum, discount was thereby allowed them on the said L400,000 till the 1st of August 1711, for the money they were so to pay in; and the advance of 15 per cent on the sale of this additional stock, enabled them to make this payment of L400,000 to the public.

Thus the bank capital, a part of which was only temporary, till now was

|   |   |   |   |   |            |    |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|------------|----|---|
| -   | - | - | - | - | L2,201,171 | 10 | 0 |
| Which being now doubled, became           | - | - | - | - | 4,402,343  | 0  | 0 |
| And by the L400,000 now farther advanced, | - | - | - | - | 400,000    | 0  | 0 |

|  |           |   |   |
|--|-----------|---|---|
| The total was now to be, at 6 per cent interest, | 4,802,343 | 0 | 0 |
|--|-----------|---|---|

In consideration of which sum of L400,000, so lent without any additional interest, their exclusive privileges as a bank were hereby prolonged to one year's notice after the 1st of August 1732. But by the same statute the bank obliged themselves to pay off and cancel all the exchequer bills which had been before issued, amounting, with their interest at 6 per cent,\* to

|   |   |   |   |   |           |    |                  |
|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|----|------------------|
| - | - | - | - | - | 1,775,027 | 17 | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|----|------------------|

So that the total capital of the bank, by this act, was

|   |   |   |   |   |           |    |                  |
|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|----|------------------|
| - | - | - | - | - | 6,577,370 | 17 | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|----|------------------|

By this act of parliament, the bank was to remain an established corporation (notwithstanding the acts of the 5th and 8th of King William) and all their former privileges were now confirmed, as also their original annual fund of L100,000, until the whole L1,600,000 should be paid off; and also the annuity of L106,501 : 13 : 5 after mentioned; and till all the exchequer bills, to be made forth pursuant to this act, should be called in, as herein after mentioned, and payment made of the allowances for circulating the same. Then, and not before, the corporation was to cease and determine. The said L106,501 : 13 : 5 was to be the interest, at 6 per cent, of the said L1,775,027 : 17 : 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

\* Notwithstanding the reduction of the interest received from the government from eight to six per cent, the bank continued to make a dividend of nine per cent to the proprietors. M.

The bank to be allowed 3 per cent per annum for circulating the said  $2\frac{1}{2}$  millions of exchequer bills, which were also to be at a like interest of 3 per cent, or  $2d$  per £100 per day, except when they shall be in the exchequer, or in the hands of the receivers or collectors of any taxes, customs, &c. payable to her majesty. The bank might make calls on their members for enabling them to circulate the said exchequer bills. The bank might make dividends to their members, of their principal or capital stock, (as they afterward did of the said £1,775,027 : 17 : 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ); which principal stock, however, shall always remain at least equal to all the debts they shall owe; otherwise, the particular members receiving such dividends shall be answerable, so far as such dividends shall extend. The rest of this long act relates to the duties and taxes to be raised for a fund for paying the interest on the above principal sums.

About this time, and probably in imitation of the bank of England, the government of France projected a royal bank for the circulation of their mint bills. But the scarcity of money in France rendered the scheme abortive.

By a printed paper in the author's collections, taken from a report to the house of commons, we have the following accurate account of the revenue of the customs of Great Britain for the year 1709, viz.

|  |          |            |         |                    |
|--|----------|------------|---------|--------------------|
| The gross amount of the customs was      | -        | £2,319,320 | 0       | 0                  |
| From which deduct,                       |          |            |         |                    |
| Salaries and incidents,                  | £152,184 | 12         | 1       |                    |
| Drawbacks on foreign goods,              | 717,190  | 17         | 2       |                    |
| Bounty-money for corn exported,          | -        | -          | 36,027  | 1 4                |
| Allowances for damages and over-entries, | -        | -          | 57,075  | 15 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Portage paid to masters of ships,        | 3,358    | 19         | 6       |                    |
|  |          |            | <hr/>   |                    |
|  |          |            | 965,837 | 0 0                |

Net amount of the customs in the year 1709,\* £1,353,483 0 0

In D' Avenant's report to the commissioners of accounts, [*part i. p. 32. London, 1712.*] he gives the importation of tobacco from America into England, at a medium of ten years, ending in 1709, viz.

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Imported pounds weight, on a medium, yearly, | 28,858,666 |
| Exported, on a like medium,                  | -          |
|  | <hr/>      |
|  | 17,598,007 |

|                                    |   |   |            |
|------------------------------------|---|---|------------|
| Consumed at home, (pounds weight), | - | - | 11,260,659 |
|------------------------------------|---|---|------------|

This year the British house of commons took the African trade into their consideration, and in a grand committee, resolved, that, as that trade was more especially necessary for the British American plantations, it ought to be free to all her majesty's subjects, in a regulated,

\* See the year 1715.

and not an exclusive, company. Yet when a bill for that end was brought into the house, it met with so many objections that it was dropped for this time.

The regulations, which had been legally made in the year 1698 in the trade to Africa, had not given satisfaction to the separate traders, on account of the company's bad conduct, which made those separate traders apply for such a law; as they also did in the year following, with equal success, after many hearings of the company, as well as of the separate traders, the parliament finding it extremely difficult to obviate and remove the objections started on either side, in relation to that commerce.

We have, in this year 1709, a third instance of the legal registering of deeds in England, being a law made for registering deeds, conveyances, and wills, and other incumbrances, made of, or affecting, any honors, manors, lands, tenements, or hereditaments, within the county of Middlesex; the preamble to which runs in such a strong and just strain, as seems well to merit the serious consideration of both the landed and monied interests in every other county of England, viz. 'whereas, by  
' the different and secret ways of conveying lands, tenements, and hereditaments, such as are ill-disposed, have it in their power to commit  
' frauds, and frequently do so, by means whereof several persons (who  
' through many years industry in their trades and employments, and  
' by great frugality have been enabled to purchase lands, or to lend  
' monies on land security) have been undone in their purchases and  
' mortgages, by prior and secret conveyances, and fraudulent incumbrances; and not only themselves, but their whole families, thereby  
' utterly ruined.' Therefor it was now enacted, that a memorial of all deeds, &c. and of all wills and devises in writing should be registered by the proper officers thereby appointed, for the fee of only one shilling. And every deed or conveyance, which should thereafter be executed, should be adjudged fraudulent, and void against any subsequent purchaser or mortgagee for valuable consideration, unless such memorial thereof be registered, as by this act is directed, before the registering of the memorial of the deed or conveyance under which such subsequent purchaser or mortgagee should claim: and the like as to memorials of wills not registered. The preamble declares this act to have been made at the humble request of the justices of the peace, gentlemen, and freeholders, of the county of Middlesex. [7 *Ann. c. 20.*]

Notwithstanding the evident utility and safety of a general register for all England, an attempt for it, many years after this time, was unaccountably rejected.

1710.—By an act of parliament, [8 *Ann. c. 12*] the entrance into the port of Liverpool having been long experienced to be so dangerous and

difficult, that great numbers of strangers and others have frequently lost their lives with ships and goods, for want of proper land-marks, buoys, and other directions into it, and more especially for want of a convenient wet-dock or bason therein, the parliament laid a duty, for 21 years from midsummer 1710, on the tonnage of all ships trading to and from Liverpool to any part of Britain and Ireland, as well as to and from foreign countries, for making a wet-dock, &c. And it has fully answered the ends thereby proposed, the wet-dock in particular, having been long since completed, to the great emolument of that most mercantile and opulent town, which has long ago become the third port (after London and Bristol) of Great Britain, whether the number of its stout merchant ships, or of its opulent and reputable merchants be considered.

Under the year 1704 we have briefly laid open the proceedings of Sir H. Mackworth and his tools, of the mine-adventurers company, to the great hurt of many persons and families: the proprietors and creditors of that company having this year petitioned the house of commons, a committee of that house was appointed to make strict inquiry into the same. The result was, that it appeared they had lost L88,000 by banking, and had squandered away great sums on Sir H. Mackworth's other projects. Therefor the house of commons, on the 31st of March 1710, resolved, *nemine contradicente*, that it appears to this house, that Sir Humphrey Mackworth is guilty of many notorious and scandalous frauds, and indirect practices, in violating the charter granted to the said company, in breach of his trust, and to the manifest wrong and oppression of the proprietors and creditors of the company. And the like is voted against William Sheres, the company's secretary, and Dykes, their treasurer. And that a bill be brought in for preventing them from leaving the kingdom, or alienating their estates. This arch hypocrite, pretending great zeal for religion, and the tory party, was thereby screened from any farther censure or suffering by the new ministry, who, soon after this, got into power: and the bill was dropt by the adjournment of parliament. And, notwithstanding all the disgrace thrown upon Sir Humphrey Mackworth, he had the effrontery to appear again at the head of this company with new proposals, in the year 1720, though then, and ever since, little better than a mere bubble.

The statute intitled *assiza panis et cervisie*, i. e. for settling the assize of bread and ale, [51 Hen. III] being now obscure, and also become otherwise impracticable for modern times, the poorer sort of people, more especially, had since been deceived and oppressed by an almost total neglect, in many places, of the due assize and reasonable price of bread; for remedy thereof, and that a plain and constant rule and method might henceforward be duely observed and kept, in making and assizing the several sorts of bread made for sale, it was now enacted,



that so much of the statute of the 51st year of King Henry III as relates to the assize of bread, be repealed. And that from the 1st of May 1710, the court of the lord mayor and aldermen of London and its liberties, or the lord mayor alone, by the order of the said court; and the mayor, bailiffs, aldermen, or other chief magistrates, of any other city or town corporate; and two or more justices of the peace, in such places where there shall be no such mayor, &c. shall respectively, and from time to time, ascertain and appoint, within their respective jurisdictions, the assize and weight of all sorts of bread, to be sold by any baker or other person whatsoever, having respect to the price which the grain, meal, or flour, whereof such bread shall be made, shall bear in the several public markets, in or about the city, town-corporate, burgh, or place, where such assize shall be so set, making reasonable allowance to the bakers for their charges, pains, and livelihoods; the said assize to be set in avoirdupois weight. Moreover, it was enacted, that none shall make for sale any sorts of bread, but white, wheaten, and household, and such other sort and sorts of bread as shall be publicly licensed and allowed by the magistrates in London and elsewhere. All which several sorts of bread shall be made in their several respective degrees, according to the goodness of the several sorts of grain whereof the same ought to be made; and the assize and weight of the said white, wheaten, and household, bread made of wheat, shall be set and ascertained according to the table annexed, (being a table of the assize of bread, in pounds, ounces, and drams, avoirdupois weight, respecting, or in proportion to the price of the bushel of wheat, and the baking, from a penny loaf to an eighteen-penny loaf, of the said three sorts of flour, viz. white, wheaten, and household.) And to the intent that this law may be effectually complied with, every baker shall fairly imprint or mark on his loaves, the sort, price, and weight of such loaf, or such other mark as the said magistrates shall direct; who are also hereby authorized, from time to time, to limit, direct, and appoint, in what manner each sort of bread shall be marked; or to make any other reasonable rules and orders for regulation of bakers, and the assize of bread. And bakers contravening this law, and the magistrates reasonable regulations, on the confession of the party, or on the oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, before any of the said magistrates, shall for every such offence forfeit the sum of 40s to the informer. Which conviction shall be certified to the general quarter-sessions, to be there entered upon record. But the prosecution of such offence shall be commenced within three days next after the offence committed. And the offender may appeal to the next quarter-sessions, when, failing or his allegations, he shall pay costs; as, on the other hand, the informer shall do to the baker, if he fail in his allegations. Bakers, mixing any other grain in their bread than the three sorts herein mentioned, shall forfeit

20*s*; and any magistrate, wilfully omitting the performance of his duty herein, shall forfeit the like sum. Any of the within-named magistrates may, in the day-time, enter into any baker's house or shop, for searching, weighing, and trying, his bread, which, if deficient either in weight, due baking, or not being duly marked, or of a worse quality than is directed by this act, may be seized and given to the poor; and the baker, making resistance, shall forfeit 40*s*. This act shall not affect the privileges of the two English universities, and shall continue for three years, and till the end of the next session of parliament. [8 *Ann. c. 18.*]

The due assize of bread being so necessary for our manufacturers and artificers, as well as for all other people, this abstract of so good a law, since made perpetual, seemed proper to be now exhibited.

By two acts [7 *Ann. c. 26*; 8 *Ann. c. 21*] for better securing her majesty's docks, ships of war, and stores, commissioners were appointed to treat for the purchase of such lands, tenements, &c. as should be judged proper for better fortifying Portsmouth, Chatham, and Harwich, i. e. for enlarging and strengthening their fortifications. And proper juries were to be summoned for ascertaining the just value of all such lands as should be wanted for those purposes. We shall hereafter see that this good plan has been since enlarged, and also farther extended to Plymouth and Milfordhaven, and greater quantities of ground have been purchased for extending and improving the fortifications of Portsmouth, Chatham, and Plymouth; which, nevertheless, are, by most good judges of fortifications, still thought, in some respects, insufficient, considering the great danger the navy and the royal stores would be exposed to, were an enemy vigorously to attack Portsmouth, Plymouth, or Chatham.

The czar of Muscovy's rapid progress against Sweden had now well-nigh ruined that kingdom; for he not only reduced part of Finland, all Carelia, and the isle of Oesel; but, what was much more valuable than them all, the flower of all the Swedish dominions, the rich, commercial, and extensive country of Livonia, with the cities and ports of Riga, Revel, Narva, Pernau, &c. all which Russia retains to this day, thereby, in the opinion of many, discomposing the balance of power and of commerce in the North.

In this year General Nicholson, with a force from England, jointly with the New-England forces, attacked and easily reduced a part of Nova-Scotia, and particularly the fort of Port-Royal, which had been yielded to France by the peace of Ryfwic, changing its name to that of Annapolis-Royal, which it still retains, being also afterward confirmed to us by the peace of Utrecht. It stands in the bay of Fundy, on the edge of a fine harbour or basin, capable of receiving 1000 ships, with good anchorage in all parts of it. This port was the rendezvous of French privateers in time of war, and of the French Indians for invad-



ing the eastern frontiers of New-England ; and therefor of the greater importance to be secured to us.

According to D' Avenant's New dialogues, published in 1710, [V. ii, p. 74] there was coined in England between the years 1659 and 1710, in gold and silver, the sum of £21,419,307.

The same author [*ibidem*, p. 95] says, he is credibly informed, ' that the bank of Amsterdam contains no less, in effectual gold and silver, than £36,000,000 sterling.

1711.—It having been found inconvenient, that any person should, at the same time, be in the direction of the bank of England and of the East-India company, the parliament this year, in an act of [9 *Ann. c. 7*] ' for enabling and obliging the bank of England, for the time therein ' mentioned, to exchange all exchequer bills for ready money upon demand, inserted a clause to disable any person to be governor, deputy-governor, or director, of the bank of England, and a director of the East-India company at the same time.'

The former laws for establishing the post-offices in both kingdoms of England and Scotland were repealed ; and one general post-office, as also one general post-master, was now appointed for the united kingdom : and chief letter-offices were erected at Edinburgh, Dublin, New-York, and the West-Indies. At the same time the postage of letters was increased, viz. what paid before but 2*d* now paid 3*d*, and for double letters 6*d*, &c. ' and for the port of all and every the letters and ' packets by the carriage called the penny-post, established within London, Westminster, Southwark, and parts adjacent, and to be received and delivered within ten miles from the general letter-office in London, one penny,' which is the first mention of a penny-post in the statute-book. [9 *Ann. c. 10.*]

By this act, the amount (gross) for one year, ended at michaelmas 1710, of the post-office, was

£111,461 17 10

Dr. D' Avenant's New dialogues make the net amount, on a medium of the three last years, to be

56,664 19 10½

By an act for preserving white, and other, pine trees, growing in her majesty's colonies of New-Hampshire, the Massachusetts-bay, and Province of Maine, Rhode-island, and Providence plantation ; the Narraganset country or King's-province, and Connecticut in New-England, also in New-York, and New-Jersey, in America, for the masting of her majesty's navy ; it is enacted, ' that whereas there are great numbers of ' those trees growing in the said provinces, near the sea and on navigable ' rivers, which may be commodiously brought into this kingdom for that ' service : for the better preservation thereof, no person after the 24th of ' September 1711, in any of the said colonies shall presume to cut, fell, ' or destroy, any of those trees fit for masts, not being the property of any.

‘ private person, if such tree be of the growth of 24 inches diameter  
 ‘ and upwards, at 12 inches from the earth, without the queen’s li-  
 ‘ cence first obtained, under the penalty of L100 sterling for every of-  
 ‘ fence. And whereas the queen’s surveyor-general, or his deputy, is  
 ‘ authorized to mark with a broad arrow all such trees as are, or here-  
 ‘ after shall be, fit for the royal navy, and to keep a register of the same,  
 ‘ none others but he or his deputies shall presume to mark such trees  
 ‘ as aforesaid, though growing on common lands, under the penalty of  
 ‘ L5 for every such offence.’ [9 *Ann. c.* 17.]

This law, the first of the kind for masts, has proved extremely useful for masting the royal navy, and thereby also has saved much money formerly sent to Norway for that purpose.

By an act of parliament for licencing and regulating hackney-coaches and chairs, (as also for new duties on stamps, leather, salt, &c. and other purposes), 800 coaches, paying 5/ weekly, and 200 sedan chairs, at 10/ each yearly, within London, Westminster, and Southwark, and the weekly bills of mortality, are enacted to be under the management of five commissioners. One mile and a half for 1/ fare, and two miles for 1/6, and above two miles 2/, and so for a greater distance in proportion, for coaches: and for chairs, the rule to be, that they shall have the same money for two thirds of those distances. [9 *Ann. c.* 23.] By the 10th of Queen Anne, 100 more chairs were added: then in all to be 300. The duties to commence from midsummer 1715, and to continue from thence for 32 years. For raising two millions by a lottery. ‘ And  
 ‘ whereas the proprietors and inhabitants of the islands of Nevis and St.  
 ‘ Christophers in America, had sustained very great losses by a late in-  
 ‘ vasion of the French, and it became necessary to give some encourage-  
 ‘ ment to the sufferers for resettling their plantations, the sum of  
 ‘ L103,003: 11: 4 was allowed to such proprietors as resettled in those  
 ‘ two islands, in proportion to their losses, by debentures to be issued  
 ‘ by the commissioners for trade and plantations, at 6 per cent interest.’ It appears by an act, [10 *Ann. c.* 34] that those debentures amounted to one third part of the whole loss of the sufferers. Moreover, by an act of the 5th year of King George I, for relief of such sufferers in those two islands as had resettled in either of them, the distribution of the above sum is farther regulated; and by one of the 8th of that king, their principal sum unpaid, and the large arrears of interest thereon, joined together, had an interest of 3 per cent settled on them.

By another act of parliament, for relief of the creditors and proprietors of the company of mine-adventurers of England, &c. it appears, that the company had, through the great expense of working their mines, &c. contracted debts which they were altogether unable to pay; whereby, and by the disputes arisen amongst their members, and between the company and their creditors, the working of their mines was

almost totally interrupted : and whereas their mines are so valuable, that, were they established under good management, great profit would accrue to the public, it was therefor enacted, that all grants, contracts, bargains, &c. to any persons by that company, since they first stopt payment in the year 1707 of their bills or bonds, be declared void ; and that all new shares in their stock, above the 6012 allowed by their charter, be also made null and void, and the proprietors of them be only deemed creditors of the company for the value thereof. The money advanced on the call made in the year 1708, to be allowed in the present call, and the surplus to be turned into stock. All bargains for ore or lead, &c. since the company stopt payment, to remain good. The creditors of the company are hereby made members of, and partners with, the company's 6012 shares. A deputy-governor and 12 directors to be annually elected for managing the company's affairs. Shares to be transferable. After the death of the duke of Leeds, the present governor for life, a governor to be annually elected agreeable to the charter : and no member to be elected governor above one year in four. The company may call in 40s per share, for carrying on the business of the mines. [9 Ann. c. 24.] This statute was made in consequence of the union between the creditors of this company and the proprietors of the shares, agreed at a general meeting, which, however, was not sufficient to keep this ill-conducted company from sinking, though fresh proposals were afterwards published for farther payments on each share, in order to carry on the mines vigorously. To say all in one word, Sir Humphrey Mackworth and his associates carried their artifices to the very utmost ; and instead of hurting the opposites in party, drew in all the zealots of the party disaffected to the established constitution, to the undoing of many innocent persons and families.

The cities of London and Westminster, and parts adjacent, being principally supplied with coals by sea, from the counties of Durham and Northumberland, and the town of Newcastle upon Tyne ; and in consideration that the having them cheap tends greatly to the improvement of the manufactures, and to the increase of the commerce and navigation of the kingdom, by breeding many thousands of skilful mariners, the parliament passed an act to dissolve the present, and prevent the future, combination of coal-owners, lighter-men, masters of ships, and others, to advance the price of coals, in prejudice of the navigation, trade, and manufactures, of this kingdom, and for the farther encouragement of the coal-trade. And, as for the relief of the poor, and advancing the duties on coals, it is necessary the same should not be monopolized, it was enacted, that all contracts between coal-owners, lightermen, fitters, masters of ships, crimps, coal-factors, &c. for engrossing of coals, or for restraining any whomsoever from freely selling, buying, loading, or unloading, navigating or disposing of coals, in such manner:

as they lawfully might, should be deemed illegal, null, and void, to all intents and purposes. And that if any coal-owners, lighter-men, &c. should hereafter be knowingly interested or concerned in any such contract, he should, if a coal-owner, forfeit £100, if a fitter, £50, if a ship-master or owner, £20, and the like sum for every officer, clerk, agent, or servant. Fitters, or other persons vending or delivering coals, were to give ample signed certificates to every ship-master, every voyage, containing the day and year of such loading, the master's and ship's name, and the exact quantity of coals, with the usual names of the several collieries out of which the coals were wrought or gotten, and the price paid by the master for each sort of coals that such fitter hath sold and loaded on board such ship. Such certificate, on the ship's arrival at London, to be registered at the cocquet-office appointed by the lord mayor, or at the custom-house of any other port. And whoever shall refuse to give such certificate, or give a false one, or not register such certificate in forty-eight hours after the ship's arrival at London, or other port; or if the person keeping the register neglect for twenty-four hours to make such register, or make a false entry thereof; or refuse to shew such entry; in each of those cases, the party offending shall forfeit £10. Lighter-men, ship-masters, crimps, or coal-factors, receiving salaries or gratuities from coal-owners, either by the year or chaldron, for contracting, buying, vending, or disposing, of any particular sort of coals, in preference to other sorts, or for the loading of any ship, or for the disposal of the coals from any such ship before other ships, or who shall knowingly sell any sort of coals as a sort which they really are not; for every such offence shall forfeit £50. Offenders discovering within three months the coal-owners, &c. concerned in such offences, shall be indemnified, and receive the reward due to any other discoverer. Any number of ships, above 50, remaining laden in the port of Newcastle or other port, bound for London, above seven days, unless detained by contrary winds, or want of repairs or convoys, or some other unavoidable cause, every master of such ship shall forfeit £50. Every crimp, husband, and coal-agent, vending coals to his own agents, partners, or servants, &c. in trust for his or their own benefit, shall forfeit £50. This act to be in force only for three years, and to the end of the next session of parliament. [9 Ann. c. 28.]

From the judicious Mr Wood's Survey of trade, we learn, that upon a medium of four years, viz. from 1707 to 1710, both included, the exports of merchandize to foreign parts exceeded the imports £2,389,872, or, in other words, England annually gained so much by foreign commerce.

In Dr. D' Avenant's report this year to the commissioners of public accounts, the proportion of the amount of the customs received at the

port of London, to the amount of the customs of all the out-ports, was as L1,268,095 was to L346,081, which is considerably above three and a half to one.

The new British ministry had laid a plan in the spring of the year 1711, by the solicitation of General Nicholson, for the attack of Placentia in Newfoundland, and, which was of still more importance, for the conquest of Quebec and the rest of Canada, from France. Troops were early enough brought over from Flanders to Portsmouth, and in April 1711 a powerful armament sailed from Portsmouth, and in May, from Plymouth; the fleet of 12 ships of war and 50 transports, commanded by Sir Hovendon Walker, and the 6000 land forces by Brigadier Hill. At Boston in New-England they were detained till the 30th of July, to supply themselves with provisions, &c. which, it was said, they ought, for dispatch, to have carried with them from England; so that they sailed into the river St. Laurence considerably too late in the year; while General Nicholson, with 2000 provincials, and 2000 Palatines and Indians, proceeded over land to Albany. When they had got a little way up the river St. Laurence, they met with very tempestuous weather; and being driven among rocks and small islands, it was not without the greatest hazard that the ships of war escaped being lost; but eight transports were cast away, with the loss of about 800 men, officers, soldiers, and sailors, and many of the other ships were miserably shattered: wherefor it was determined to return to England, which they accordingly did in October the same year, without having made any attempt on the French at Placentia.

The English African company now petitioned the house of commons for leave to bring in a bill for the confirmation of their exclusive charter. But the petitions from private traders, as well as from the British American colonies, for laying that trade quite open, effectually frustrated the company's petition. Yet nothing farther was done at this time, in relation to the African trade, except that the house of commons addressed the queen, to direct that care should be taken of the forts, &c. on the Guinea coast, until farther provision should be made.

The new prime minister of Great Britain, the earl of Oxford, now created lord treasurer, upon his accession to power, saw it to be *his interest* to put an end to the war with France and Spain as soon as possible, and was now actually treating of a separate peace with those powers. Yet, as he could not prudently avoid carrying it on, at least for the year 1711, and until he could more firmly fix himself in power, he judged it principally necessary to find means to quiet the minds of the monied people by restoring the public credit, which was at this time much affected by the late great change in the ministry, and had occasioned a run upon the bank. And as the bulk of the monied men, and of the



proprietors of the national funds, were averse to his new measures, it was his great aim to bring them into good humour.

There happened at this time to be a very large arrear of navy, victualling, and transport debentures, and also of army debentures, &c. without any established fund for putting them into a regular course of being discharged: for this reason principally, as well as on account of this change in the ministry, they were at a large discount, whereby the distrust, which the proprietors had before generally entertained of the new ministry, was greatly heightened: if therefor a fund could be established for the regular payment of the interest of that large arrear, and at the same time plausible means could be devised to give the creditors the hope of farther advantages by a new and alluring commerce, he prudently thought he should obtain his principal end. We must here previously observe, that some of our adventurers to Spanish America, in Queen Elizabeth's time, as well as the late buccaneers, had raised in the minds of people the highest ideas of the advantages of a trade thither; which were farther heightened by observing the vast riches which France had brought home from thence, since the duke of Anjou had ruled in Spain: moreover, it was remembered, that so early as the 21st year of King James I, a company, or association, was proposed in the house of commons for a Spanish West-India trade: in the reign of King William also, as well as in the former part of the present reign, during Lord Godolphin's ministry, there had been much discourse of an expedition to the Spanish West-Indies, in conjunction with the Dutch, in order to make some permanent settlement there for commerce. Furthermore, certain schemes were handed about and published for making settlements, by force, in the South seas of America, in contemplation of the vast plenty of gold, silver, and rich drugs, &c. there to be found, and of the immense profit made by the Spaniards on the European merchandize sent thither; which considerations, joined to the feebleness of the Spanish government in those parts, were plausible allurements for a nation of so enterprising and commercial a genius as ours, to strive for sharing such advantages at first hand. Moreover, to make the new ministry's separate negotiations with the enemy to be the better relished, it was industriously given out by their emissaries, that Great Britain was to have a concession from Spain of four ports in the South seas, on the coasts of Peru and Chili, for the security of her commerce there. But, without enlarging farther on such romantic schemes, we shall now observe, that the new prime minister procured an act of parliament of the 9th year of Queen Anne, for making good deficiencies, and satisfying the public debts; and for erecting a corporation to carry on a trade to the South seas; and for the encouragement of the fishery; and for liberty to trade in unwrought iron with the subjects of Spain; and to repeal the acts for registering seamen.

This act first states the deficiencies and debts unprovided for, viz. the navy debt, office of ordnance debt, transport debt, army debentures, deficient tallies and orders on coals, subsidies to the elector of Hanover and duke of Zell, with the interest on such of them as carried interest, and also monies advanced on several duties on goods imported for the service of the year 1710, and £500,000 to be raised for the service of the year 1711; which altogether amounted to £9,471,325, the interest whereof, at 6 per cent, was £568,279:10. For the payment whereof this act makes perpetual the duties on wines, vinegar, tobacco, East-India goods, wrought silks, whale-fins, and sundry other duties which were appropriated for limited times for other purposes, and in the meantime the deficiency of this yearly fund was to be made good by the treasurer of the navy. The surplus, if any, to go towards paying off the above capital, hereby made redeemable on one year's notice after christmas 1716. The said yearly fund to be payable weekly, and to commence from christmas 1711.

I) And to the intent that the trade to the South seas may be carried on for the honour and increase of the wealth and riches of this realm, her majesty is hereby empowered to incorporate all the proprietors of the said debts, in the usual stile and form. This act allows the company £8000 per annum for charges of management. And, for better securing the privileges of the bank of England, this new company shall not borrow money on their bills or notes on demand, nor at any less time than six months: neither shall they discount bills of exchange, nor any other bills or notes whatsoever; nor shall keep any books or cash for any persons or corporations, excepting their own alone.

II) And whereas it is of the greatest consequence to the honour and welfare of this kingdom, and for the increase of the strength and riches thereof, and for vending the product and manufacture, goods and merchandize of, or brought into, this kingdom, and the employment of the poor, that a trade should be carried on to the South seas and other parts in America, herein after mentioned, which cannot so securely and successfully be begun and carried on as by a corporation with a joint stock, exclusive of all others. For the better encouragement of the members of the said intended company, be it enacted,

III) That this company shall, from the 1st of August 1711, be vested for ever in the sole trade and traffic, unto and from all the kingdoms, lands, islands, cities, towns, ports, creeks, and places, in America, on the east side thereof, from the river of Aranoca to the southermost part of Terra del Fuego; and on the west side thereof, from the southermost part of the said Terra del Fuego, through the South seas, to the northernmost part of America; and into, unto, and from all countries, &c. within the said limits, which are reputed to belong to the crown of

Spain, or which shall hereafter be found out, or discovered within the said limits, not exceeding 300 leagues from the continent of America, between the southermost part of Terra del Fuego and the northermost part of America, on the west side thereof, except the kingdom of Brazil, and such other places on the said east side of America as are now in the actual possession of the crown of Portugal, and the country of Surinam in the possession of the states-general of the United provinces; it not being intended, that the sole trade to any part of the east side of America, now in the actual possession of the crown of Portugal or the states-general, shall be granted by this act: but it shall be and remain lawful for all her majesty's subjects to trade and traffic thither, as fully and freely, in all respects, as they might or could do, if this act had not been made.

IV) None shall trade within those limits, but the company, their agents, and factors.

V) The queen may, in her intended charter of incorporation, empower the said company to make laws for the good government of their trade, &c. and to inflict reasonable penalties, by imprisonments and mulcts, for any breach thereof.

VI) Forfeiture of ships and merchandize, and double their value, for any but the company, or those licenced by the company, trading to, or frequenting, any part of their limits; one fourth to the crown; one fourth to the informer; and one half to the company.

VII) The company to be the sole owners and proprietors of all islands, forts, towns, and places, which they shall hereafter discover within their limits; to hold the same of the crown, in free and common soccage by fealty, on the annual rent of an ounce of gold, if demanded.

VIII) All prizes of ships and merchandize, taken by the company, shall be their sole property: for which end, they may seize by force of arms the persons, with their ships and goods, trading within their limits.

IX) The company's bonds shall charge as well their annual fund, as their other stock, effects, and estate; and shall be assignable by indorsement. And it shall be felony to counterfeit their common-seal or bonds, or to alter or utter the same knowingly.

X) The company not to sail into any of the before-named limits beyond Terra del Fuego, except only through the straits of Magellan, or else round the said Terra del Fuego; nor shall sail from thence into any part of the East-Indies; neither shall they return to Great Britain, or to any other part of Europe, Asia, Africa, or America, by any other way except through the said straits of Magellan, or by Terra del Fuego aforesaid: neither shall they trade in the goods of India, Persia, or China, nor in any other commodities of the countries within the limits



of the East-India company. Nor shall this new company's ships sail farther west from the shores of Chili, Peru, Mexico, California, or any other shores contained between Terra del Fuego and the northernmost part of America, than 300 leagues; under forfeiture of ships, merchandize, and double the value: one third to the crown, and two thirds to the East-India company.

XI) And forasmuch as nothing can more conduce to the increase of the strength and riches of this kingdom, and the breeding of able seamen, than preserving and enlarging the fishery, the queen may, in her charter to this company, direct a stock of 20/ upon every L100 of the capital stock of the company, to be kept apart, and always employed for carrying on, improving, and enlarging, the fishery of this realm, or any other fishery; so as none other of the queen's subjects be excluded the fishing trade. And so as no calls of money for the fishery, or for any other parts of the company's trade, be made but by order of a general court, on a fortnight's notice.

XII) Neither the governors nor directors of this company shall be capable of being such in the bank, nor in the East-India company, at the same time.

This is the substance of this famous act, which was then, and is still generally called the earl of Oxford's masterpiece; although it be nevertheless extremely plain, that the main of his scheme was borrowed from the memorable act [8, 9 *Gul. III, c. 19*] for doubling the capital of the bank of England in the year 1697; the trade to the South seas, and that of the fishery, being the only new thoughts, by way of allurement or sweetener.

The royal charter was dated the 8th of September 1711, incorporating the subscribers of those debts by the name of the governor and company of merchants of Great Britain trading to the South seas and other parts of America, and for encouraging the fishery. It recites the act of parliament, and grants that the company shall have a court of directors, and appoints the manner of their proceedings in that court, and their general courts, their manner of elections, qualification of the electors, and elected, &c. needless to be particularly here recited: that defaulters in payments of calls, and all other debtors to the company, shall not be permitted to transfer their stock, nor to receive their dividends, without the consent of the court of directors: that the company may appoint courts of judicature in their forts, factories, and settlements, for determining causes mercantile and maritime, with an appeal to the queen and council; may raise a military force for the defence of their forts and settlements, as well as for acquiring others within their limits. And by an act of parliament of the 10th of Queen Anne, in 1712, all the powers, privileges of commerce, &c. were made:

perpetual to the company, notwithstanding any redemption of their fund.

Upon the establishment of this company with a proper fund, their stock advanced very considerably in price, and continued gradually to rise: whereupon, the company's general court, in consequence of the queen's assurance of assisting them with a sufficient force for establishing their trade to the South seas, resolved to prepare a cargo for the year 1712, of £200,000 value.

Accordingly, in July 1712, £200,000 was issued in bonds, under the company's common seal. Yet, although a cessation of arms was, in this same year, agreed on with France and Spain, the company did not however judge matters ripe for sending out any ships this year, the peace with France not being actually signed till the 31st of March 1713, nor with Spain till the 2d of July following.

In November 1711, the prices of the public stocks were as follows, viz.

|                     |                   |                      |                  |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| East-India stock, - | 124 $\frac{1}{2}$ | South sea stock, -   | 77 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Bank stock, -       | 111 $\frac{1}{4}$ | Royal African stock, | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  |

The late total change of the British ministry had by this time made new and strange alterations of things, formerly in good esteem. Thus, for one instance, the general naturalization of foreign protestants, which had been enacted not quite three years before, and by that act was declared to be a likely means of advancing the wealth and strength of a nation, and which had been attempted to be repealed in the preceding year, when the bill was rejected by the house of peers, was now, by an act of the 10th of Queen Anne, totally repealed; and the reason for that repeal is therein assigned to be, 'because divers mischiefs and inconveniences have been found by experience to follow from the same, to the discouragement of the natural-born subjects of this kingdom, and to the detriment of the trade and wealth thereof.'

That great numbers of sober and industrious subjects are the main strength and wealth of a nation, will scarcely be controverted by any who understand the true and solid interests of nations and communities. The instance of the king of Prussia inviting the French protestant refugees to settle in his dominions, as quoted in the former statute, and their general admission into the United provinces, in both which countries they have been of immense benefit to their protectors, have strongly verified the above position in the first statute.

In Holland, says Dr. D'Avenant, in the second part of his *Discourses on the public revenues and trade of England*, London, 1698, p. 117th, 'there is reason to think, that the national stock of that state is increased near 8 millions since the war; in regard that by the wisdom of their constitution they invite dayly to them, and increase in number of inhabitants.'

To what difficulties, and even distresses, have we very lately been reduced, from a real want of men for our fleets and armies? Yet it still appears, from the disposition of even great numbers of persons of knowledge and abilities in our own days, that the old prejudices, if we may be allowed to call them so, against a general naturalization are not as yet easily to be overcome.

A spirit of gaming prevailed at this time in smaller private and unlawful lotteries, under the denomination of sales of gloves, fans, cards, plate, &c. also offices for insurances on marriages, births, christenings, services, &c. and dayly advertisements for such were published in the newspapers; and also, for the improvement of small sums of money: a clause therefor was inserted in an act of the 10th year of Queen Anne; (intituled, an act for laying additional duties on hides, skins, &c.) whereby a penalty of L500 was enacted on any persons setting up such offices, lotteries, &c.

The African company's affairs being much in disorder, an act was now passed 'for making effectual such agreement as should be made between the royal African company of England and their creditors.' 'For the benefit of their creditors, it was enacted, 'that two-thirds or 'more of them, in number and value, might on or before the 20th of 'December 1712, under hand and seal, consent to allow them a space 'of time for payment of their debts, or to make any other agreements 'with them respecting their debts; which agreements by two thirds, &c. 'as above, should bind all the rest of those creditors, saving always the 'queen's duties.' On this occasion, there were several resolutions of the house of commons, which in part testify the great importance of this trade, for supplying our sugar and other American colonies; as, that this trade ought to be free for all the queen's subjects, in a regulated company; that forts and settlements on that coast are necessary, which forts should be maintained out of the trade; that contracts and alliances are necessary to be maintained with the natives; that the plantations should be supplied with a sufficient quantity of negroes at reasonable rates; that a considerable stock is necessary for carrying on that trade; and, that it is necessary that an exportation of at least L100,000 in merchandize, be annually made from Great Britain thither. The first six of those resolutions were confirmed, but the seventh was rejected; and a bill was thereupon ordered into the house, yet it did not succeed.

An act of parliament was passed, 'for continuing the trade and corporation capacity of the United East-India company, although their 'fund should be redeemed.' It having been enacted by the statute of the 6th of Queen Anne, 'that upon payment to the company of the 'L3,200,000 due by the public, upon three years notice after lady-day '1726, the benefit of their trade should cease and determine; yet, upon 'the company's humble petition, and to the intent that they and their

‘ successors may be the better encouraged to proceed in their trade, and  
 ‘ to make such lasting settlements for the support and maintenance  
 ‘ thereof for the benefit of the British nation;’ it was now enacted,  
 ‘ that not only the proviso in the above statute for the redemption and  
 ‘ determination of the duties on salt and stamps, and of 5 per cent on  
 ‘ imported East-India goods, and their yearly fund, but likewise of the  
 ‘ benefit of the trade and of the corporation, is hereby repealed and  
 ‘ made void; and that the said duties and fund shall continue, and the  
 ‘ said United company, and their successors, shall have and enjoy such  
 ‘ part of their yearly sum of £160,000 as they shall hereafter be intitled  
 ‘ to, and all the benefit of trade, franchises, privileges, profits, and ad-  
 ‘ vantages, whatever, granted to the company by former statutes and  
 ‘ charters: provided, that, at any time, upon three years notice after  
 ‘ lady-day 1733, and repayment of the said £3,200,000, and of the said  
 ‘ yearly fund of £160,000, then the said duties and fund shall absolutely  
 ‘ cease and determine.’ [10 *Anne*, c. 28.]

We must here remark, that although the title of this statute may seem to imply a perpetuity in their exclusive trade, even although their fund should be redeemed, as they themselves alleged in the year 1730, when petitioned against to the parliament, as will be seen, yet the body (or the enacting clauses of this act) does not clearly imply so much: but, on the contrary, declares, ‘ that the company shall be subject, nevertheless, to  
 ‘ the restrictions, covenants, and agreements, of former acts and charters  
 ‘ now in force; and also subject to the general provisos or conditions  
 ‘ of redemption above named.’

But in the very next statute, save one, of this same session of parliament, the enacting clause in behalf of the South-sea company is unexceptionably clear, viz. ‘ an act for continuing the trade to the South  
 ‘ seas, granted by an act of the last session of parliament, although the  
 ‘ capital stock of the said corporation should be redeemed.’ This act, after reciting the former one, for the establishment of the company, adds, ‘ and whereas some doubts may arise concerning the power of re-  
 ‘ demption intended by the said act and charter, which might tend to  
 ‘ discourage the said company in expending such large sums of money  
 ‘ as are necessary for new settlements, and settling a trade there, for the  
 ‘ future benefit of Great Britain; for explanation thereof, be it enact-  
 ‘ ed, that at any time, upon one year’s notice after christmas 1716,  
 ‘ upon repayment of the principal sum due to the company, then all  
 ‘ the impositions and duties shall and may be disposed of by parliament,  
 ‘ and the yearly fund shall cease and determine. But the said corpora-  
 ‘ tion, by the name aforesaid, after such redemption of the said yearly  
 ‘ fund, shall continue for ever, and have perpetual succession; and shall  
 ‘ hold and enjoy all forts, factories, and acquisitions, that they shall erect  
 ‘ within the limits prescribed; and shall have the sole benefit of trade

in and to the South seas, and such other power of trade in the fishery as by the said act is directed, and all other benefits, powers, privileges, and advantages, as if no such redemption were had or made.'

In a representation of the East-India company to the house of commons, against laying additional duties on calicoes, muslins, cottons, tea, coffee, and drugs, that company alleged, 'that they annually exported to the East-Indies about £150,000 value in woollen goods and other English product.'

The king of France granted a patent to Mr. Crozat, his secretary, for 15 years, of the whole commerce of 'all the lands in North-America, lying between New-France on the north, Carolina on the east, and New-Mexico on the west, down to the gulf of Florida, by the name of Louisiana, since named the province of Mississippi.' In the preamble to this famous patent the king says, 'that having in the year 1683, given orders to the Sieur de la Salle to make discovery of the said country above described, he succeeded so well, that it was now beyond doubt that a communication may be practicable between the bay of Mexico and New-France, by certain vast rivers. This obliged us immediately on the peace of Ryswick to send thither a colony and garrison, which has maintained the possession we took, in the said year 1683, of lands, coasts, and islands situated in the gulf of Mexico, between Carolina on the east, and old and new Mexico on the west. But, war breaking out again in Europe, we have not been able till now to render that colony so advantageous as we hoped for.' The bounds now granted to Crozat were, 'from the mouth of the river Mississippi, in the bay of Mexico, to the lake Illinois northward; and from New-Mexico on the west, to the lands of the English of Carolina eastward; with all rivers, ports, creeks, isles, &c. by the name of Louisiana; the province, however, to depend on the general government of New-France, and be deemed a part thereof. Crozat to enjoy the sole trade of all exportations to, and importations from, this province for 15 years; as also all mines, minerals, &c. paying a fifth of these to the king, and an immunity during that term from custom outward and homeward, &c.'

This is the whole of the French king's title to the possession of the vast country, which, by virtue of his plenary power, he was pleased to call his own. Under the year 1698, we have related his first attempting a settlement there; but as it was only at the mouth of the river Mississippi, it properly and solely belonged to Spain to oppose it, as being within the limits of Florida. From thence France, on any rupture with Spain, may greatly annoy the Spanish dominions in old and new Mexico, &c. But when, in the above grant to Crozat, Louis clearly proclaimed his plan of joining Louisiana to New-France, and thereby hemming in the English continental colonies between the Mississippi and the sea east-



ward, what name shall we give to our English counsellors at such a time, who supinely (if not treacherously) suffered such a grant to pass unopposed, when the charters of our king, Charles II, to the lords proprietors of Carolina granted to them all the lands directly west to the South seas, which consequently included the country on both sides the river Mississippi \* ?

We may, under this year, note, that Erasmus Philips's State of the nation, in respect to her commerce, debts, and money, [2d edition, p. 25] makes ' the balance of England's trade, one year with another, to have ' been in our favour, on an average £2,881,357 from 1702 to 1712; so ' that, allowing a great abatement for false entries, here is room enough ' for the greatest sceptic to admit of a large balance, over and above the ' necessary expenses of the war †.

Before we enter upon the formal conclusion of the commercial part of the treaty of Utrecht, we shall briefly exhibit the substance of the new treaty, concluded on the 29th of January 1713, of mutual guarantee for the protestant succession to the crown of Great Britain, and for the barrier of the states-general of the United Netherlands. The stipulation in case either should be attacked, was, on the part of Great Britain, 10,000 foot to the assistance of the states, and by the states 6,000 foot to the assistance of Great Britain; also, 20 ships of war by either party. And in case of sudden and imminent danger, each party was obliged (being required by the other) to augment their succours, and to declare war against the aggressor; and even to join all their forces by land and sea to those of the party attacked. This treaty repealed one of the same kind, made in the year 1709.

We have the best authority for observing, that the copper manufacture of England was by this time brought to the greatest degree of perfection; it being expressly so declared in a statute of the 12th of Queen Anne, for making perpetual the act made in the 13th and 14th years of the reign of King Charles II, intitled, an act for the better relief of the poor of this kingdom, &c. by which, an expired clause of an act of the 9th and 10th of King William, enacting, ' that any of his majesty's ' subjects may export from England, copper-bars imported from foreign ' parts; and, upon exportation, shall draw back all duties, or vacate the ' securities, saving the half of the old subsidy, as is usual in other commodities,' was now revived, in the words following, viz. ' which

\* Qu. Had Charles more right to make gifts of the country belonging to the native Americans than Louis had? The Spaniards say that neither of them had any title to a foot of land in America; and the aboriginal natives with much more truth affirm, that all the white people (with the exception of the Pennsylvanians and very few others) are intruders, robbers, and murderers. M.

† By Sir Charles Whitworth's *State of the trade of*

*England*, the balance of trade was not near so high in any one of the years here condescended on, except 1712, when it was £3,114,174, whereof £600,017 was bullion. But the average of the ten years ending with christmas 1712 was £2,178,955, including the bullion exported, which was £464,059 on the average of those ten years: and that being deducted, the real balance was about £1,714,896.

M.

clause being expired, and forasmuch as the copper manufacture of this kingdom is brought to such perfection, that there is more made than can be expended here and in the plantations; be it therefor enacted, &c. provided nevertheless, that no drawback be allowed on the exportation of any copper, but such as shall be imported from the East-Indies and the coast of Barbary only.'

1713.—We are now come to a remarkable epocha of commercial history; for, on the 11th of April, new stile, in the year 1713, Queen Anne's plenipotentiaries at Utrecht signed her treaty of peace, and also, at the same time, a treaty of navigation and commerce, with France; and ratified the same in four weeks after. Much has been written and published against the conditions of this peace, which that queen's new ministers, for their own safety, were determined to conclude.

But as commercial matters alone, and such points as are nearly connected therewith, are our proper province, we shall content ourselves with briefly remarking, on what is properly the treaty of peace.

I) That though the French king yielded to the queen of Great Britain, to be possessed by her in full right for ever, the bay and straits of Hudson, and all parts thereof, and within the same, then possessed by France, yet leaving the boundaries between Hudson's Bay and the north parts of Canada, belonging to France, to be determined by commissaries within a year, was, in effect, the same thing as giving up the point altogether; it being well known to all Europe, that France never permits her commissaries to determine such matters, unless with great advantage to her. Those boundaries therefor have never yet been settled, though both British and French subjects are, by that article, expressly debarred from passing over the same, or thereby to go to each other by sea or land. Those commissaries were likewise to settle the boundaries between the other British and French colonies on that continent; which likewise was never done.

Commissaries were also to settle, according to the rule of justice, the satisfaction to be given to the English Hudson's Bay company for the damage done to their settlements, ships, persons, and goods, by the hostile incursions and depredations of the French, in time of peace. And this too was never effectually done.

II) St. Christophers was the more easily yielded to the queen, as the French had before been expelled from it.

III) But although all Nova-Scotia and Acadia, with its antient boundaries, were yielded to Queen Anne for ever; as also the city of Port-Royal, now called Annapolis-Royal, and the subjects of France were thereby excluded from fishing in the seas, bays, &c. on the coasts of Nova-Scotia; yet those antient boundaries were never yet justly ascertained by France; and the ambiguous term, antient boundaries, was, doubtless, purposely contrived by France, for her future designs; and,

instead of the true limits of Nova-Scotia, they still pretended, that only the peninsula called Acadia was thereby intended to be yielded up, and not what we called Nova-Scotia, which is properly bounded by the Ocean, and the bay and river of St. Laurence quite up to Canada; which river, we contended, was the antient boundary between Nova-Scotia and New-France or Canada.

IV) But the island of Cape-Breton, which was always deemed a part of Nova-Scotia, and which is better situated for the fishery than any other part of it, and for the French to interrupt our fishery and the communication between Newfoundland and our continental colonies, was yielded to France; as also all the other islands in the mouth of the bay and of the river of St. Laurence, whereby the French were permitted to fortify as they should judge proper.

V) Though Newfoundland, with the adjacent lesser islands, and the town and fortrefs of Placentia, and whatever else the French possessed there, were yielded to Britain; yet thereby, nevertheless, the French were permitted to erect stages made of boards, and huts, necessary and usual for drying their fish during the fishing season. The French therefor had liberty to catch fish, and to dry them on the shore, stretching from Cape-Bonavista to the northern point of the island, and and from thence running south by the west-side as far as Point Riche; thus, having all the advantages of Newfoundland, (which island, it is well known, can never be made a profitable colony or plantation) without the expence of holding forts and garrisons, wisely left to Great Britain alone.

VI) The French of Canada were to give no hindrance nor molestation to the five nations of Iroquois Indians subject to the dominion of Great Britain, nor to the other natives of America who are friends to the same. Yet it is notorious what violence the Canadians and French have since committed against those Indian nations, subjects of the crown of Great Britain, and what arts, at other times, they have practised to draw them off from their allegiance.

By the ninth Article, France agrees to the intire demolition of all the fortifications, and of the port, of Dunkirk, and all its sluices, moles, &c. within five months; and that they should never be restored nor rebuilt on any pretence whatever.

The articles of the treaty of navigation and commerce between Great Britain and France are 41 in number; most of which being in the customary form, we shall pass over: but we could not omit our animadversions on the 8th and 9th articles, as they were so extraordinary in themselves, and as they occasioned so great a stir and uneasiness at that time, as to bring the whole treaty of commerce to miscarry then, and ever since.



Article VIII) That all the subjects of the queen of Great Britain and of the most christian king, in all countries and places subject to their power on each side, as to all duties, impositions, or customs whatsoever, concerning persons, goods, merchandize, ships, freights, seamen, navigation, and commerce, shall use and enjoy the same privileges, liberties, and immunities, at least, and have the like favour in all things, as well in the courts of justice, as in all such things as relate either to commerce, or to any other right whatsoever, which any foreign nation, the most favoured, has, uses, and enjoys, or may hereafter have, use, and enjoy.

IX) That within the space of two months after, a law shall be made in Great Britain, whereby it shall be sufficiently provided, that no more customs or duties be paid for goods and merchandize brought from France into Great Britain than what are payable for goods and merchandize of the like nature, imported into Great Britain from any other country in Europe; and that all laws made in Great Britain, since the year 1664, for prohibiting the importation of any goods and merchandize coming from France, which were not prohibited before that time, be repealed: the general tariff made in France, on the 18th of September, in the said year 1664, shall take place there again, and the duties payable in France by the subjects of Great Britain for goods imported and exported, shall be paid according to the tenor of the tariff above mentioned, and shall not exceed the rule therein settled, in the provinces whereof mention is there made; and in the other provinces the duty shall not be payable otherwise than according to the rule at that time prescribed; and all prohibitions, tariffs, edicts, declarations, or decrees, made in France since the said tariff of the year 1664, and contrary thereunto, in respect to the goods and merchandize of Great Britain, shall be repealed. But whereas it is urged on the part of France, that certain merchandizes, that is to say, manufactures of wool, sugar, salted fish, and the product of whales, be excepted out of the rule of the above-mentioned tariff, and that likewise other heads of matters belonging to this treaty remain, which, having been proposed on the part of Great Britain, have not yet been mutually adjusted; a specification of all which is contained in a separate instrument, subscribed by the ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiaries on both sides; it is hereby provided and agreed, that, within two months from the exchange of the ratifications of this treaty, commissaries on both sides shall meet at London, to consider of, and remove, the difficulties concerning the merchandizes to be excepted out of the tariff of the year 1664; and concerning the other heads, which, as is above said, are not yet wholly adjusted. And, at the same time, the said commissaries shall likewise endeavour (which seems to be very much for the interest of both nations) to have

‘ to have the methods of commerce, on one part and on the other, more  
 ‘ thoroughly examined, and to find out and establish just and beneficial  
 ‘ means on both sides, for removing the difficulties in this matter, and  
 ‘ for regulating the duties mutually. But it is always understood and  
 ‘ provided, that all and singular the articles of this treaty do, in the  
 ‘ meanwhile, remain in their full force; and especially that nothing be  
 ‘ deemed, under any pretence whatsoever, to hinder the benefit of the  
 ‘ general tariff of the year 1664, from being granted to the subjects of  
 ‘ her royal majesty of Great Britain, and the said British subjects, from  
 ‘ having and enjoying the same, without any delay or tergiversation;  
 ‘ within the space of two months after a law is made in Great Britain  
 ‘ as above-said; in as ample manner and form as the subjects of any na-  
 ‘ tion the most favoured might have and enjoy the benefit of the afore-  
 ‘ said tariff; any thing to be done or discussed by the said commissaries  
 ‘ to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.’

When these two articles came to be known by the merchants of Great Britain, they were received with the utmost surprise and indignation; and the clamour was loud and universal, inasmuch, that it occasioned a famous weekly paper to be published, (the joint work of a number of eminent merchants) with the title of the British merchant, or commerce preserved\*, in defence of our commerce with Portugal, and against confirming the 8th and 9th articles by law. There were also sundry separate tracts published on the same side. On the other hand, those in power found tools to justify their conduct; and particularly Daniel Defoe, who published a weekly reply, called Mercator, or commerce retrieved. But the former having truth and facts on its side, clearly evinced to the world, that a compliance with those two articles would effectually ruin the commerce we carried on to Portugal, the very best branch of all our European commerce†. That the 8th article put France on an equal footing with Portugal, or any other of our best allies, in point of commerce: but that the 9th article struck more directly at the very root of our Portugal trade; seeing, by introducing the tariff of 1664, the wines and brandies of France would be poured in upon us, instead of those of Portugal; though the latter took off great quantities of our woollen, iron, linen, &c. manufactures, and thereby sent us a large yearly balance of money over and above all the wines, oils, and fruits, which we took from them.

On the other hand, by agreeing to the two articles, and to the tariff of 1664, France would probably gain annually from Great Britain above a million sterling, not only from the vast consumption of their alluring

\* Since collected, and published in 3 vols. 8vo. A.

† It has been since discovered, that there may be better branches of European commerce than that of Portugal. Indeed, it is not easy to con-

ceive, how an opinion should so long have prevailed, that the trade of so small a country as Portugal should be the most valuable of all our branches of commerce. M.

wines and brandies, but of numberless other articles of silk, lace, linen, needle-work, and paper, beside fruits, &c. which the authors of the British merchant made out thus, viz.

|  |         |                 |
|--|---------|-----------------|
| Our imports from France, upon agreeing to those two articles, would annually amount to | - - - - | £1,712,559 7 0  |
| And our exports thither would not exceed   | -       | 270,181 14 11   |
| Annual balance against, or loss to, Great Britain                                      |         | £1,442,377 12 1 |

while, on the other hand, the French had so effectually contrived the exclusion of our woollen and iron manufactures, and almost every other British production, that our ships would have had very little to do in the French ports but to load home their commodities.

This is, in brief, the sum of this mercantile controversy. When it was brought into parliament, it was so apparent that our trade with France had ever been a ruinous one, and that if, in consequence of accepting the 8th and 9th articles, the British parliament should consent to reduce the high duties and take off the prohibitions so prudently laid on French commodities, it would effectually ruin the very best branches of our commerce, and would therefor deprive many hundred thousand manufacturers of their subsistence; which was also supported by petitions from many parts of the kingdom: that, although a great majority of that house of commons was in other respects closely attached to the ministry, the bill for agreeing to the two articles was rejected by a majority of nine voices, after the most eminent merchants had been heard at the bar of that house, to the great joy of the whole trading part of the nation, and of all other impartial people. Thus the commerce between us and France has ever since remained in a kind of a state of prohibition on both sides, especially with respect to the principal points. Though it is much to be feared, that by the clandestine importation of French liquors, cambrics, fruits, embroideries, lace, &c. we are still considerable losers on the balance with that nation; as they will take few or none of our manufactures, and but little of our product; tobacco, lead, tin, coals, and some few other inconsiderable articles, excepted.

All as our ministry managed at this time in respect of commerce, we ought to do them the justice to acknowledge their circumspection in regard to the two articles of the treaty with King Philip of Spain, viz. part of article 8th. 'Neither the catholic king, nor any of his heirs and 'successors, shall sell, yield, pawn, transfer, or by any means, or under 'any name, alienate from them and the crown of Spain, to the French, 'or to any other nation whatsoever, any lands, dominions, or territories, 'belonging to Spain in America: on the contrary, that the Spanish 'dominions there may be preserved whole and entire, the queen of

‘ Great Britain engages to endeavour to give assistance to the Spaniards, that the antient limits of their dominions in the West-Indies be restored and settled as they stood in the time of the catholic king, Charles II.’

Article X) ‘ That all and singular the subjects of each kingdom of Great Britain and Spain, shall, in all countries and places, on both sides, have and enjoy, at least, the same privileges, liberties, and immunities, as to all duties, impositions, or customs whatsoever, relating to persons, goods, and merchandize, ships, freight, seamen, navigation, and commerce; and shall have the like favour in all things as the subjects of France or of any other foreign nation the most favoured, have, possess, or enjoy.’

By the said tenth article, Spain yielded for ever to the British crown the full and entire property of the town, port, and castle of Gibraltar, but without any territorial jurisdiction, or any open communication by land with the country round about; whereby abuses and frauds may be avoided by importing any kind of goods: yet, as the communication by sea with the coast of Spain may not at all times be safe and open, and thereby it may happen that the garrison and other inhabitants may be brought to great straits; and as it is the intention of the catholic king, that only fraudulent importations of goods should be hindered by an inland communication; it was therefor now provided, that in such cases it may be lawful to purchase, for ready money, in the neighbouring territories of Spain, provisions, &c. for the use of the garrison, so as no merchandize be imported by Gibraltar into Spain; otherwise they shall be confiscated.’ We may here, however, observe, that had Gibraltar had a small territory annexed to it on the land side, the Spaniards could not have since erected the fort on the isthmus, so near the town, as to prove some obstruction to ships from anchoring in time of war farther up the bay.

The eleventh article with Spain yields to the British crown the property of the island of Minorca, with the port and forts of Port Mahon, for ever.

But with respect to Gibraltar and Minorca it was expressly stipulated, that in case it shall seem meet hereafter to the crown of Great Britain to grant, sell, or alienate, the propriety of either, the preference of having the same shall always be given to the crown of Spain before any others.’

The twelfth article grants ‘ to her Britannic majesty, and to the company of her subjects appointed for that purpose (the South-sea company) as well the subjects of Spain as all others being excluded, the contract for introducing negroes into several parts of the dominions of his catholic majesty in America (commonly called, *El pacto de el affiento de negros*) at the rate of 4,800 negroes yearly for the space of 30 years

‘ successively, beginning from 1st of May 1713, on the same conditions  
‘ on which the French company had formerly enjoyed it \*.’

It is said, that the British ministers at first demanded a free trade for Great Britain to Spanish America; but that was a mere illusion, since it would have inflamed the jealousy of all the rest of Europe. Yet surely, considering the service they had done to King Philip, they might have obtained a more favourable assiento; since it was confessed, that all former assientists had actually been losers, although on as good terms as the present assiento, excepting only the annual ship, which King Philip allowed to the South-sea company, for the term of 30 years, of 500 tons burden, Spanish measure, wherewith they were to trade to Spanish America; but of which the catholic king reserved one fourth of the gain, besides 5 per cent on the other three fourths. Thus did our ministers, in this respect at least, suffer us and the South-sea company to be outwitted by the Spanish ministers: it was universally known, that the Portuguese company first, and next the French one, were undone by their assiento contracts for supplying the Spanish West-Indies with negroes; and this sugar-plumb of an annual trading ship, granted to our company, was too much clogged with difficulties to prove of any certain advantage, more especially considering how much the court of Madrid had it in their power to suspend the licence for any such annual ship, &c. as they often practised, and to seize on the company's effects in America at pleasure.

Part of the fifteenth article: ‘ and whereas it is insisted on the part of  
‘ Spain, that certain rights of fishing at the island of Newfoundland do  
‘ belong to the Guispucoans, or other subjects of the catholic king;  
‘ her Britannic majesty consents and agrees, that all such privileges as  
‘ the Guispucoans and other people of Spain are able to make claim  
‘ to by right, shall be allowed and preserved to them †.’

In the meanwhile the earl of Oxford, lord high treasurer of Great Britain and governor of the South sea company, in a general court of that company, on the 2d of June, 1713, acquainted them, that her majesty had presented the company with the assiento contract; and had also procured for them two licences from the king of Spain, for two ships of 600 tons each, for carrying merchandize the first year to the northern ports of the Spanish West-Indies, besides the annual ship of 500 tons. Whereupon the company, flushed with such pompous appearances, issued £200,000 more in bonds, for carrying on their trade with vigour: and her majesty lent two of her own ships, to be the two first licenced

\* Here it was intended to insert the South sea company's assiento contract. But as all that company's mercantile concerns are long ago laid aside, it is needless to enlarge on a subject not likely to be ever renewed. A.

† This point has never yet been clearly ascertained, and probably never will. A.



ships for carrying over the company's goods, factors, and servants. But yet the court of directors were not a little surpris'd to find, that the queen had reserv'd to herself, or to her assigns, another quarter part of the assiento; beside her grant of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent to Don Manuel Manasses Gilligan, the Spanish agent at her court, out of the clear profits of the annual ship: yet she afterward resign'd her quarter part of the assiento to the company, on condition that they should, besides the above grant to Gilligan, assign  $21\frac{1}{4}$  per cent of the clear profits of the annual ship to persons whom she would afterward name, who were then said to be Lord Bolingbroke, Lady Masham, and Arthur Moore, Esq. Such were then the wild and ill-grounded expectations from this new trade; yet, on better advice, the queen gave up entirely to the company her part of the supposed profits, to the no small mortification of the above and other courtiers, as was then commonly reported, and generally believed.

On the 30th of April 1713 the house of commons, after reading the several petitions of the separate traders to the coast of Guinea within the limits of the royal African company, once more resolv'd, that the trade to Africa ought to be free and open to all the queen's subjects, under such proper regulations as should subject that trade to duties for maintaining its forts and settlements. Yet a bill for this purpose was soon after dropped in the house of peers.

Peter, the czar of Muscovy, in completion of his plan for a new emporium at St. Petersburg, now removed the bulk of the commerce of Archangel thither, and also transplanted 30,000 people from his antient capital city of Moscow, and oblig'd more of his bojars (or nobles) to erect palaces therein, as he also did one for himself, making St. Peterburgh henceforth his usual residence.

The great importance of the silk manufactures of England, at this time, eminently appeared from a petition to parliament by the weaver's company of London in behalf of those manufactures. They therein set forth, that by the encouragement of the crown, and of divers acts of parliament, the silk manufacture is come to be above twenty times as great as it was in the year 1664: and that all sorts of black and coloured silks, gold and silver stuffs, and ribands, are now made here as good as in France. That black silk for hoods and scarves, not made here above 25 years ago, hath amounted annually to above £300,000 worth, for several years past, which before were imported from France; which increase of the silk manufacture hath caused an increase of our exportation of woollen goods to Turkey, Italy, &c.

This petition was purposely levelled against the 8th and 9th articles of the commercial treaty with France, the ratification of which propos'd by parliament would, in place of our silk manufacture, have introduced an inundation of French silks, ribands, embroideries, &c. whereby our Spitalfields and Canterbury looms would have stood still, and our

most profitable trade in woollen goods, &c. with Portugal, would have been utterly lost.

During the two last wars with France the manufacturers of England did irreparable damage to the French, by imitating them in, and even out-doing them in, many of their best manufactures, wherewith they had before supplied almost all the rest of Europe. Necessity, indeed, first prompted our people thereunto, in which they were much assisted by the French refugees, as we have observed more at large under the years 1685 and 1692.

By the treaty of Utrecht, between France and Portugal, the former yields up all pretensions to the lands of Cape-Nord, situated between the river of Amazons and that of Japoc or Vincent Pinson. And the French king thereby declares, that both sides of the river Amazons, as well south as north, belong to Portugal; and he desists from any claim to navigation on the river Amazons, and from all right to any other domain of his Portuguese majesty, as well in America as in all other parts of the world. Neither shall the French of Cayenne pass the river of Vincent Pinson for traffic, nor shall buy slaves in the territories of Cape-Nord. Nor, on the other hand, shall any Portuguese go to trade at Cayenne. Of all which, the queen of Great Britain is hereby constituted guarantee. As this short treaty shews that France, at that time, made pretensions to some part of that continent, so it may hereafter be useful to illustrate some commercial point or concern in that part of the world.

By the treaty between France and the king of Prussia at Utrecht, Louis recognises the king of Prussia's title and dignity as a king, and acknowledges him sovereign lord of the principality of Neufchatel and Valengin, to which Louis grants the same commercial privileges as are enjoyed by the rest of the Helvetic nation; and, in his grandson's name, he confirms to him the upper quarter of Gelderland; which cession, however, at first alarmed the Dutch not a little, on account of their trade on the Meuse, and their communication with Maestrecht, Liege, Huy, and Namur. But there was no remedy.

On the other hand, the king of Prussia thereby renounced all right to the principality of Orange.

By the 10th article of Louis's treaty with the duke of Savoy, it was stipulated, that the ordinary commerce of Italy, between France and that duke, be managed by the way of Suza, Savoy, and Pont de beau Voisin, and Villa-Franca; each paying the duties and customs on both sides, and the French ships paying the antient duty, called the duty of Villa Franca.

In the French king's treaty with the states-general of the United Netherlands, at Utrecht, he engages, by the 32d article, not to claim.

nor accept any other advantage, either for himself or his subjects, in commerce and navigation, whether in Spain or in the Spanish Indies, beside that which he enjoyed during the reign of the late King Charles II, or that shall be likewise granted to every other trading nation.

By their proper treaty of commerce, navigation, and marine affairs with France, (consisting of 44 articles, beside a separate one,) which was to last for 25 years; the 9th article grants equal liberty to the Dutch as to the subjects of France, to carry merchandize from the Levant to Marseilles, as well by their own ships as in French ships, without being subject to the 20 per cent, unless in cases where the French themselves are subject to it. By the 10th, the Dutch may freely import salted herrings into France, without being liable to repackage. By the 19th, contraband goods are described to be all sorts of fire-arms and military utensils; also saltpetre, horses, saddles, holsters, belts, &c. But by the 20th, wheat and other corn, pulse, oil, wine, and salt, were not to be deemed contraband goods, nor were any other things, in general, which tended to the nourishment of life, but shall remain free, as other merchandize, and may be transported even to enemies, excepting to towns actually besieged or blocked up. By the 29th, privateers shall give 15,000 livres tournois, security for their not committing disorders, &c.

The rest of the articles relate to a multitude of points usual in all other treaties of commerce, concerning mutual liberty of commerce, reception in their ports, captures, contraband goods, tolls, damages, searching ships for contraband goods, arrests, imposts, passports, goods belonging to either party found in enemies ships, seizures, &c. and therefor needless to be particularized. But the separate article stipulates, 'that the imposition of 50 sols per ton, laid in France upon the ships of foreigners, shall entirely cease for the future with respect to all Dutch ships arriving in France, either loaded or in ballast; excepting only in one particular case, viz. when Dutch ships shall load merchandize in one port of France, and transport them to another port of France to unload them.'

In July 1713, there was a temporary or provisional contract signed at Utrecht between Great Britain and the states-general, respecting the commerce of the Spanish Netherlands, now unnecessary to be specified.

To conclude all that relates to the famous grand alliance against France, the British ministry, by their separate peace, having left and abandoned the emperor and empire to shift for themselves, it was easy to guess they would not long hold out against the power of France and Spain. The emperor, therefor, for himself, in March 1714, (N. S.) concluded, at Rastadt, a peace with France (the French king being em-



powered all along to treat for his grandson) on as good terms as could well have been expected in his then situation, being obliged to leave Landau and Strasburg in the possession of France, and to consent that Arras, Douay, and Lisle, should also remain to France, and to restore to the electors of Cologne and Bavaria every thing they before enjoyed. And, in September following, a solemn treaty of peace was concluded at Baden between the emperor and empire and the French king, which confirmed what was stipulated by that of Rastadt, relating to the frontier towns in Alsace and the Netherlands, and to the restoration of the above electors, as also recognizing the electoral dignity to the house of Brunswic-Lunenbug; confirmed the former intercourse of commerce between France and the empire, and the rights, commerce, and privileges, of the imperial cities and Hanse towns; as also what the emperor then possessed in Italy, the neutrality of which country was also confirmed. But nothing is remarkable therein, in relation to commercial history.

This year the former treaties between the states-general of the United provinces of the Netherlands, and the burgomasters and common council of the free and imperial city of Lubec, for the preservation of the freedom of commerce, were renewed for fifty years; to which defensive treaty and confederacy, any other of the Hanse towns were permitted to accede. This treaty was occasioned by the wars then raging between the northern potentates bordering on the Baltic shores.

In consequence of an act of parliament [12 *Ann. c. 11*] for raising £1,200,000 for the public service, by circulating a farther sum in exchequer bills, &c. the bank of England undertook the circulation of that sum in exchequer bills, for which they were to have £3 per cent per annum. And, to enable the bank to perform that circulation, by exchanging the bills for ready money on demand, this act allows them £8000 yearly, over and above the £45,000 allowed them annually by the 9th of the queen, till all the present and former exchequer bills shall be paid off and cancelled; for which end the bank might call in money from their proprietors, which might be called additional stock. The bank likewise was to continue a corporation, till all should be paid off and cancelled. Secondly, on twelve months notice, after the 1st of August 1742, and re-payment of the yearly fund, and of the original capital of £1,600,000, then the corporation of the bank was to cease and determine\*.

\* It is worthy of notice, that Sicily, which apparently was the original mother of all the sugar-canes, which have stocked the West-Indies, usually received sugars at this time from Britain. This remarkable effect of industry and commercial enter-

prise on the one hand, and of sloth and superstition on the other, appears in a representation to the board of trade by the merchants trading to Sicily, dated 27th October 1713. *M.*

1714.—In the beginning of the year 1714 the queen's declining state of health, and the great uneasiness of the men of property on the apprehension of her death, occasioned a considerable fall in the prices of the public funds, viz. bank stock from 126 to 116; South-sea stock from  $94\frac{1}{2}$  to 85. There was also, for some days, a great run on the bank: yet national credit very soon returned to its former state, and even gradually advanced higher than before; though, at the death of that princess, the national debt amounted to about 50 millions of money.

Upon the petition of Mr. Whiston and Mr. Ditton, supported by the opinions of the great Sir Isaac Newton and Dr. Halley, in the year 1714 the British parliament passed an act [12 *Ann. sess. 2, c. 15*] for providing a public reward for the discovery of the longitude at sea. The preamble observes, that 'it is well known by all that are acquainted with the art of navigation, that nothing is so much wanted and desired at sea as the discovery of the longitude, for the safety and quickness of voyages, the preservation of ships, and of the lives of men: and whereas, in the judgment of able mathematicians and navigators, several methods have already been discovered, true in theory, though very difficult in practice, some of which, there is reason to expect, may be capable of improvement, some already discovered may be proposed to the public, and others may be invented hereafter. And whereas such discovery would be of particular advantage to the trade of Great Britain, and very much for the honour of this kingdom: but, besides the great difficulty of the thing itself, partly for the want of some public reward as an encouragement, and partly for want of money for trials and experiments necessary thereunto, no such inventions or proposals, hitherto made, have been brought to perfection.' It was therefor now enacted, that the lord high admiral, the speaker of the house of commons, and sundry other great officers, by virtue of their offices, and several other persons, should be commissioners for trying and judging of all proposals, experiments, and improvements, relating to the same; who, being satisfied of the probability of such discovery, should certify the same to the commissioners of the navy, who were empowered to make out a bill for any sum, not exceeding £2000, which the commissioners for the longitude should think necessary for making the experiments. And the ultimate reward offered to the discoverer of the longitude, if he determines it to one degree, or 60 geographical miles, was £10,000, if to two thirds of a degree, £15,000, and if to half a degree, £20,000, &c.

All that needs farther to be said on this most important subject, is, that part of the £2000 has been already expended on fruitless experiments; and that many are of opinion the longitude never can be found. But who can pronounce with certainty on a subject of this nature, since many useful discoveries have, at different times, been made on other points of great importance, when least expected?

Another statute made in the same session, [c. 16] for reducing the rate of interest without any prejudice to parliamentary securities, has the following preamble, viz. 'Whereas the reducing of interest to ten, and from thence to eight, and thence to six, in the hundred, hath from time to time, by experience, been found very beneficial to the advancement of trade and improvement of lands; it is become absolutely necessary to reduce the high rate of interest of 6 per cent to a nearer proportion with the interest allowed for money in foreign states.' It was therefor enacted, that from the 29th day of September, 1714, no person should, directly nor indirectly, take for the loan of monies, goods, or merchandize, above the value of L5 for the forbearance of L100 for a year; and that all bonds, contracts, and assurances whatsoever, made after that day, for payment of any principal or money to be lent, or covenanted to be performed upon, or for any usury,\* whereupon, or whereby, there shall be reserved or taken above the rate of L5 in the hundred, should be utterly void. That all persons who should after that time receive, by means of any corrupt bargain, loan, exchange, chevizance, shift, or interest of any wares, merchandize, or other thing whatever, or by any deceitful way or means, or by any covin, engine, or deceitful conveyance for the forbearing or giving day of payment, for one whole year, for their money or other thing, above the sum of L5 for L100 for a year, should forfeit for every such offence the triple value of the monies or other things so lent, bargained, &c. And all scriveners, brokers, solicitors, and drivers of bargains for contracts, who should, after that day, receive above 5s for negotiating the loan of L100 for a year, or above 12d over and above the stamp-duties, for renewing the bond or bill for loan, or for any counter bond or bill concerning the same, should forfeit for every such offence L20, with costs of suit, and suffer imprisonment for half a year.'

Another statute of the same session, [c. 18] for preserving all such ships and the goods thereof, which shall happen to be forced on shore, or stranded, upon the coasts of this kingdom, or any other of her majesty's dominions, confirmed the statute of the third of King Edward I, concerning wrecks at sea, which enacts, that where a man, a dog, or a cat, escape quick (alive) out of the ship, neither that ship nor barge, nor any thing in them, shall be adjudged a wreck; but the goods shall be saved for the proprietors, &c. And also a statute of the 4th of that king, that if any lay hands on the wreck, he shall be attached by sufficient pledges, and the price of the wreck shall be valued and delivered to the next town. And whereas great complaints have been made by both British and foreign merchants, that their ships, being unfortunate-

\* The word *usury* is still retained in this act as the legal term for a fair interest of money, though in common acceptation it applies only to interest above the lawful rate.

ly run on shore near home, have been barbarously plundered, and their cargoes embezzled; and when any part thereof has been saved, it has been swallowed up by exorbitant demands for salvage. It was now enacted, that the sheriffs, justices of the peace, and magistrates of port-towns, also constables, tything-men, and officers of the customs, shall, upon application made to them by the concerned, command the constables to summon as many men as necessary for assisting in the preservation of such ship in distress, and the goods thereof; and if any queen's ship or merchant-ship be riding at anchor near the wreck, their assistance shall be demanded; or, neglecting such assistance, the commander of such ship shall forfeit £100 to the proprietors of the ship in distress. Secondly, for the encouragement of such as shall assist, the collectors of the customs, and the commander of such ship, and all others assisting, shall be paid a reasonable reward for the same from the proprietors. And, in default of such reward, the said ship or goods, so saved, shall remain in the custody of such officer of the customs until all charges be paid, and such reasonable gratification given, or security for it, of which three neighbouring justices shall adjust the *quantum* to be paid. Goods, not claimed by the right owners in twelve months, shall be sold, and perishable goods immediately; and the value of both shall be lodged in the exchequer till claimed by the right owners. Persons entering a distressed ship without proper leave, or obstructing the saving of ship or goods, or, when saved, defacing the marks of such goods, shall make double satisfaction, or be sent to an house of correction for twelve months: and such persons, so entering the ship without leave, may be legally repelled by force. Any person, carrying off goods without leave, shall forfeit triple the value. Making holes in any ship in such distress, or stealing the pump thereof, or otherwise contributing to its destruction, shall be felony without benefit of clergy.

Proviso, for saving the right of the crown, or of patentees, or of lords of manors, to any wreck, or to goods that shall be flotsam, jetsam, or lagan, (i. e. floating, thrown on land, or lying on the shores,) within their respective jurisdictions.

By an act of the 4th of King George, this statute was made perpetual: and for effectually preventing wilfully casting away, burning, or otherwise destroying, ships by the owners, masters, or mariners, it was hereby enacted, that persons so doing to the prejudice of underwriters of policies of insurance, or of merchants lading goods in such ships, shall suffer death.

Yet, we are truly sorry to remark, that, notwithstanding this good law, there have been frequently very barbarous infractions of it, more especially on the farther south-western shores of England, which seem to want a stronger enforcement: although this act directs it to be read

four times yearly in all the parish churches and chapels of all sea-port towns on the sea-coasts of the kingdom.

As we have formerly observed, that the post-office revenue is, in some sort, a kind of politico-commercial pulse or test of a nation's prosperity, we shall here exhibit a state thereof for some years past, as the materials have fallen in our way.

The author of the Royal treasury of England, (*octavo*, 1725, *p.* 307), says, 'that, when an act of parliament passed in 1660, for establishing a general post-office in England, it then brought in a revenue of £21,000 per annum \*.'

The rates of postage continued the same till the end of 1710: we have noted, under the year 1711, that on a medium of three years, 1708-10, the net income was £56,664, (according to D'Avenant's *New dialogues*;) but, by the printed report of the commissioners of the equivalent, 1718, to the house of commons, that medium then amounted to £62,000 for England, and £2000 for Scotland.

From lady-day, or the beginning of 1711, an addition of one third to the postage of home letters was made by act of parliament, as it remains to this day; and, on a medium of four years, to lady-day 1715, the net revenue was

|   |   |        |
|---|---|--------|
| Now deducting the revenue at the restoration, | - | 21,000 |
|   |   | <hr/>  |
|   |   | 69,223 |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |        |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--------|
| Also one third for the increase in 1711, by the additional postage. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 23,000 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <hr/>  |

And the net increase of this revenue, since the restoration, is £46,000

Only deducting about £2000 for Scotland; which deduction is probably more than compensated by the additional expense arisen from the great increase of franked letters.

About this time the emperor Charles VI first granted commissions to ships fitted out at Ostend, for trading to East-India, whereby great quantities of India goods were brought to Europe, which very much interfered with the commerce of the English and Dutch companies; most of which interloping ships, as well as their commanders and secret projectors, were, nevertheless, procured from England and Holland. Some ships, under that prince's commission, were fitted out from Lisbon and Leghorn. All which moved the English and Dutch companies to make loud complaints at the court of Vienna, though for some years without any redress.

\* I presume, he means, net revenue. A.



On the 9th of June 1714 the house of commons addressed Queen Anne, that her quarter part of the assiento contract with Spain might be applied to the discharge of the national debts; but on the 18th, she answered, that she had given the same up to the South-sea company. And the same year the queen granted two other ships of war to accompany and escort the other two ships, which she had before granted for carrying out the company's goods, factors, &c. The ports where that company had leave to trade, and to settle factories, were Panama in the South sea, and Portobello, Carthagená, and Vera Cruz, on the North sea, Buenos-Ayres on the Río de la Plata, and the port of Havana in the isle of Cuba, besides their inland sub-factories in New Spain, &c. and their agents at Jamaica, as well as at Cadiz and Madrid in Old Spain. So here was a most pompous and specious out-set. And the queen's grant of her quarter part of the assiento not having been formally conveyed to the company before her death, King George I confirmed that grant on his accession to the crown, as also that of the four ships, which sailed to America in the beginning of the year 1715.

Nevertheless, in the debates in parliament, it already too plainly appeared, that, from the explanations made by the court of Madrid to their treaty of commerce with Britain, since signing the treaty of Utrecht, it was not very probable that we should be able to carry on an advantageous trade with the Spanish West-Indies, as matters then stood.

The accession of the present royal family of Hanover to the British throne, by the death of Queen Anne, gave great satisfaction to the better part of the nation of all ranks, and especially to the monied and trading interests, who thereupon assumed new life and vigour: and although disaffection soon after broke out into an open rebellion, yet that being also soon and easily quelled, our general commerce and manufactures have continued, very sensibly, to increase ever since that happy period. Our mercantile shipping, not only in London, but in most of our other sea-ports, have also visibly increased, as in Bristol, Liverpool, Glasgow, Dublin, Cork, Waterford, and in many other ports of Britain and Ireland; and for a never-failing confirmation of the great increase of the commerce of those cities and towns, let the vast increase of the suburbs of London and Dublin more eminently speak since that period; as well as of Bristol and Liverpool, and of sundry inland manufacturing towns to a great degree also; such as Manchester, Birmingham, &c. And the like may be said with respect to our American colonies. Where liberty and property are inviolably preserved, and the established form of religion firmly secured, while, at the same time, such as dissent from it, of all persuasions of protestants, are made easy and safe under the protection of the laws; what can possibly hinder such a country and people from growing rich and powerful? on the other



hand, while, for want of heirs of the queen's body, the spurious pretension of one bred up in the persecuting bigotry of a very different religion from ours, and yet favoured by too many at home, as well as encouraged by certain foreign potentates, hung over our heads, it is not to be wondered at, that in the later part of that queen's reign, a general diffidence and uneasiness prevailed among all ranks, till the legal settlement of a protestant succession, with a numerous royal family, took place. And where such a general uneasiness long continues, commerce will gradually languish, many persons will at length leave such a country to seek for sweet content and liberty elsewhere; and as the people will thereby decrease, so will likewise their manufactures and shipping. But, thanks to kind providence, the reverse is now, and long has been, our happy condition.

1715.—King Louis XIV of France dying in this year 1715; we shall only briefly note, that, as during his long reign, he had done much hurt to his country, by driving out of France so many industrious manufacturers, artisans, and merchants, whom necessity prompted to propagate their arts and skill in the countries, to which they had retired for shelter: so, on the other hand, in his reign foreign commerce and plantations were considerably improved by the French: he also greatly improved and increased his marine, so that it sometimes proved a match for the joint fleets of both the other maritime powers of Europe. And although in this work we have nothing particularly to do with his unjust invasions of his peaceable neighbours, any farther than as it affected the general state of commerce either in his own kingdom or elsewhere; yet we cannot avoid remarking, that his persecution of his protestant subjects nearly depopulated a considerable part of his country, and also greatly lessened the former vast consumption of French manufactures in foreign countries, as we have elsewhere remarked: his foreign wars also consumed great numbers of his people, insomuch that it is doubted by many, whether France would not upon the whole have been happier, more populous, and richer, had Louis solely cultivated the arts of peace and manufactures, and thereby not only would have increased his own people, but would have likewise drawn thither great numbers of foreigners; instead of having, by his unjust conquests, extended his dominions on almost every side; and would thereby have also increased his maritime strength, and his American plantations.

Be this as it may, we shall only farther note, from Voltaire's Age of Louis XIV, 'that during his whole reign, he expended eighteen thousand millions of French money, which, on an average, comes to 330 millions yearly of present money;' or about fourteen millions sterling per annum, one year with another.

In Mr. Wood's Survey of trade, (p. 51) he gives us the balance of commerce in our favour, for the years 1713 and 1714, on a medium



Yet, notwithstanding the provision hereby made for the year 1715, the company might still proceed to receive the duties arising by salt, candles, clerks, apprentices, &c. by virtue of the act of the 9th of Queen Anne, whereby they were enabled to make their dividends for this year 1715 in money; and that we may end this point here, though somewhat out of its place, the company's general court in May 1716, made the two half-years dividends for the year 1716, in the stock aforesaid; the dividends for both half-years being made at midsummer 1716, by adding 6 per cent in stock to each proprietor's account, for the two half-years dividends, (9th and 10th) to christmas-1716.

In this same year, the South-sea company's first annual ship was launched, and named the Royal Prince, in honour of the prince of Wales, (since King George II) governor of that company, who, on that occasion, was magnificently entertained on board her, with all his court. This ship's first voyage was in 1717, and her second voyage, 1723.

A printed paper now appeared, giving the net amount of the customs of England, for the fifteen immediately preceding years; which was as follows, leaving out the odd shillings and pence, viz.

|            |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|
| Anno 1700, | - | - | - | - | - | - | £1,379,460 |
| — 1701,    | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,637,809  |
| — 1702,    | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,285,605  |
| — 1703,    | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,206,349  |
| — 1704,    | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,401,390  |
| — 1705,    | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,139,277  |
| — 1706,    | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,311,856  |
| — 1707,    | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,192,081  |
| — 1708,    | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,351,536  |
| — 1709,    | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,353,483  |
| — 1710,    | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,208,292  |
| — 1711,    | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,253,598  |
| — 1712,    | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,315,423  |
| — 1713,    | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,541,170  |
| — 1714,    | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,714,139  |

Total in 15 years, £20,291,468

The customs, on a medium, for one year, £1,352,764

Here we may naturally observe, that the years 1701, 1713, and 1714, considerably exceeded any of the other eleven; and yet 1704, a prosperous year of war, somewhat exceeded the year 1700, a year of peace, but an unsettled and threatening one. And, lastly, that the net amount of the year 1709, exactly corresponds with that given in to the house of commons in that year, which so far confirms the authenticity of the account.

Upon a petition of the agent for the planters and merchants of Carolina, and of the other inhabitants of that colony, representing the oppression of the lords proprietors, and their neglect of defence against the Indians, &c. the house of commons addressed the king to send them relief: and a bill was this year brought into the house of commons, for the better regulation of the charter and proprietary governments in America, and of his majesty's plantations there; the principal scope of which was to reduce all the proprietary charter governments into regal ones. Ever since the proprietary colonies began to be very considerable, (i. e. since the death of King Charles II, and more especially since the revolution in 1688,) the ministry foresaw the great consequence it would be of to the crown and kingdom, to buy off the proprietors of colonies, before they should grow too powerful; and frequent treaties were held with them by the ministers of the crown for that end; particularly with the truly great Mr. William Penn, for the purchase of his fine province of Pennsylvania. His demand was £20,000 and Queen Anne, in council, referred that demand to the lords commissioners of trade and plantations; whose report was referred by the queen to the lords commissioners of the treasury; soon after which an agreement was made with Mr. Penn for £12,000 for the province: but he being soon after seized with an apoplexy, which disabled him to execute the same, a stop was put to that bargain, till by the queen's order a bill in parliament should be prepared for that end. While that bill was depending, Mr. Joshua Gee and others, who were mortgagees under Mr. Penn, petitioned the house of commons for relief; wherein they represented, that Mr. Penn having purchased of the Indians their title to that country, he had by his industry and at great charge improved it, and established considerable colonies therein, whereby he had very much impaired his estate in Europe; and that, in the year 1708, to clear a debt contracted for settling and improving the said colonies, he had borrowed of the said mortgagees £6,600, to whom he mortgaged the province and all his powers of government. How beneficial it would have been for the public to have then paid off the mortgagees, and have purchased that province, since so vastly increased in people and value, is now (almost too late) seen by every one.

Lord Baltimore, as we have seen under the year 1661, (though at this time only first represented to the legislature, by the young lord's guardians) in his petition represented the great expense his great-grandfather had been at in settling his province of Maryland; and that he and his three brothers and two sisters, (lately become protestants, the family having always been papists till now) had no way of providing for themselves but out of those several branches of the civil government of the province, which by a bill for the better regulation of the charter and proprietary governments in America, and for the encouragement of the trade of this kingdom and of his majesty's plantations, were intended

to be taken away ; the amount whereof was at least L3,000 per annum \*. And, as the Indians in this province were very inconsiderable, the white people therein being now much more numerous and stronger than they; they therefor humbly hoped, that Maryland might be excepted out of this bill.

A petition was likewise presented by the agent for his majesty's provinces of Massachuset's bay and Connecticut. With relation to Massachuset's bay, it was represented, that it had its charter from King James I in the 18th year of his reign, afterward confirmed by King Charles I in the 4th year of his reign, by virtue whereof, the governor and company of the Massachuset's bay had power to appoint their own officers, civil and military, with other privileges therein mentioned: that in the reign of King James II, their charter was vacated, at the same time that many corporations in England were disfranchised: that after the revolution King William restored the charter, only reserving to himself the appointment of a governor, lieutenant-governor, secretary, judge of the admiralty, and the attorney-general; and that this is the charter which the province now enjoys. Hereupon it is humbly observed, that the charter of this province being on the same footing with the corporations in England, it seems equally hard to divest them of it, as it would be to disfranchise the corporations at home. That this province has given a valuable consideration to the crown for their charter, viz. the subduing and planting a wilderness, at a vast expense, and with the loss of many lives; whereby they have added a large territory to the crown, and thereby also greatly increased the trade and commerce of Britain. That this province is not within the reasons suggested in the bill, for they have not exercised arbitrary power; neither indeed can they: for the principal officers before mentioned, being appointed by the crown, are such a check on the government, that it is entirely out of their power to oppress the subject. Moreover, they have not neglected the defence of the inhabitants; on the contrary, they have well defended both themselves and their neighbours in a long French and Indian war; and their ordinary charge for guards, garrisons, guard-ships, &c. has been L35,000 one year with another. And though thereby the province has contracted a debt of L150,000 yet they do not complain; nor are they burdensome to the crown, but are paying it off yearly by degrees. Moreover, if this charter should be taken away, no compensation can be made for it: whereas, in the case of proprietary governments, an equivalent may be given to the proprietors, as it seems is intended: but here it cannot be, because the privileges here are not vested in particular persons, but in the body of the people. Thus, it is like to happen, that the proprietors of Carolina, &c. on whose account alone this bill is brought in, may come off well enough, while the charter governments

\* They are said to be now (1762) above L9,000 a year. A.

in New-England, which have done nothing amiss, shall be the only sufferers: it is therefor humbly prayed, that this province may still enjoy its privileges, by being excepted out of the bill.

With respect to the Connecticut charter, which was also intended to be taken away by this bill; it had, like other charter governments, a grant from the crown, whereby they were empowered to appoint all their own officers, civil and military, for the administration and execution of justice: the first planters, entirely confiding in the royal charter for the security of their liberties therein granted, did, at a vast expense and great peril, subdue and plant a wilderness, whereby they have increased the dominions of the crown, as well as the commerce of Britain: they have, in all times since, defended themselves against the enemy; and have impartially administered justice to the subject: and when public measures have been concerted for the common good of the colonies, they have cheerfully joined in the expense. Moreover, they have never to this day cost the crown so much as one shilling. They have strictly observed the acts of trade and navigation. They have been always dutiful to the crown; and, if their charter be taken away, no equivalent can be given for it; (for the same reasons assigned in the Massachusetts bay petition.) It is therefor humbly hoped, that the colony of Connecticut may be excepted out of the bill.

Petitions were also presented in behalf of the duke of Beaufort and Lord Craven, both minors, to be heard by council against the bill, they being considerable proprietors in Carolina and the Bahama islands; and from the agent for the colony of Rhode island and Providence plantation in New-England. The foregoing petitions, which contain much of the history of the first planting of these colonies, were referred to the committee to whom the bill was committed.

Yet, notwithstanding all the bustle occasioned by this bill, it was in the end dropped; although it is most certainly and obviously of the last importance to the public, that the proprietary colonies, still existing as such, should be bought off and vested in the crown; since the longer they remain proprietary, the more valuable they constantly grow to the proprietors, and the more difficult it will prove to buy them out. This, doubtless, the legislature will hereafter duly consider in a season of profound peace and tranquillity. The foregoing petitions and allegations of the charter colonies are much more difficult to be answered, for the reasons therein exhibited. And this was probably one main reason for dropping the bill; which, doubtless, was a well intended one, though liable to some objections, which may hereafter be obviated. What will posterity say of the present age? but that, in respect to the large proprietary governments of British America, we were supinely negligent of the national interest; when it shall be found, that the proprietors have so vast an income thereby, as to render it impracticable to buy them out,



without either laying too heavy a burden on the public, or else using compulsive means, which are inconsistent with our constitution.

By the treaty of peace, concluded at Utrecht this year between King John V of Portugal and King Philip V of Spain, the latter cedes to the former, by the sixth article, the territory of the Sacrament, situated on the northern bank of the river of Plate, in America; but so as that no other nation of Europe shall be permitted to settle in or trade to it. Yet, in the next article it is stipulated, that the king of Spain may nevertheless offer an equivalent for the said colony, if agreeable to his Portuguese majesty; provided it be made within one year and an half. All other conquests on either side are by this treaty to be mutually restored.

So greatly does the colony of New-England abound with naval stores of almost all kinds, that in a letter from a New-Englander to the board of trade and plantations (printed in this year, 1715) concerning the New-England trade, it is asserted, 'that one fleet only from New-England brought home 6000 barrels of pitch, tar, and turpentine, to London; and that millions of trees are rotting in the woods, for want of encouragement to collect them. Masts,' says this author, 'we have the finest in the world: of hemp we have hitherto raised but little; but our soil is very proper for it: our woods afford all sorts of ship-timber and plank: ships of late we build very well, both for beauty and strength: our country abounds with iron ore; but we have not yet got into the way of making enough for our own supply. Wherefor, to prevent our setting up in New-England manufactures that will interfere with Great Britain; it is highly necessary to employ the New-England people as much as possible in making naval stores for their mother country, lest we should hereafter be obliged to depend on the pleasure of the Danes, Swedes, and Russians, for leave to set a fleet to sea; to whom we pay ready money for their naval stores, which, by the war in the north, have risen near 50 per cent on us. That, in the great scarcity of woollen goods from England about nine years ago; the New-England people, not being able to pay 200 per cent advance thereon, set up a very considerable manufacture, still in being, for stuffs, kerseys, linsey-woolseys, flannels, buttons, &c. Copper also, New-England has the best in the world, &c.' Herein, even so early as this time, we find our sugar colonies complaining of New-England's great trade to the Dutch colony of Surinam, which they now supplied with vast numbers of horses, and with provisions, fish, &c. and, in return; took their melasses, which they made into rum. The rest of this piece pleads for a royal charter for incorporating a bank of credit, lately erected at Boston, from which they promised great things to the colony, besides one per cent to the crown.

Such essays are to be cautiously considered, as being almost always exaggerated, because generally calculated for certain partial ends or purposes. His plan in general is undoubtedly good; and we have before seen, that our legislature has encouraged it: nevertheless, as our colonies on the continent come to grow populous, it will be impossible altogether to prevent their entering upon manufactures interfering with those of the mother country; and the most that can fairly be effected seems to be, to study as much as possible to set those people upon raising the raw materials of new productions, and particularly naval stores. As for their having copper and iron, it seems to be doubtful, whether it can ever prove profitable for the mother country. The former we have seen, by good authority, to be in great plenty with us at home; and, with regard to iron, we shall hereafter see how far the British legislature has judged proper to encourage it. Tin and lead mines have not as yet made their appearance in British America.

In December Mr. Bubb, the British minister at Madrid, concluded a new treaty of commerce with the king of Spain, containing, however, nothing very particular. By the first article British subjects were to pay no higher duties in the Spanish ports than those they paid for the same merchandize in the reign of the catholic king, Charles II. The second confirms the treaty made by the British subjects with the magistrates of St. Andero, in the year 1700. By the third, they may, as formerly used, gather salt at the island of Tortuga. By the fourth and fifth, British subjects were to pay no higher duties than Spanish subjects paid in the same place: and they should enjoy all the rights, privileges, &c. which they enjoyed before the last war, and by the treaty of 1667; and the subjects of both nations shall mutually be treated as those the most favoured in commercial matters. The sixth and seventh abolish innovations on either side, and confirm the treaty of Utrecht. [*Political state of Great Britain*, V. xi.]

1716.—Notwithstanding what we have just seen of the superabundance of naval stores in New-England, and particularly of timber, yet we find, in the year 1716, Mr. Shute, governor of the Massachuset's bay, complaining to their assembly, 'that, notwithstanding a law passed in Great Britain for encouraging naval stores for the navy royal, and for the preservation of white pine trees in America, for masts, yards, &c. great spoils are daily committed in the king's woods, by cutting down and putting to private uses such timber as may be proper for the navy royal.' He therefor recommends passing a new law in New-England, as well as putting the old ones in strict execution, for this great end.

In the former part of this year, 1716, the duke of Orleans, regent of France during the minority of Louis XV, was so ill advised as to raise the value of a louis d'or from 16 livres to 20, and of a crown from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  and

4 livres to 5 livres. Thus he got one fifth part of the value of those coins, gulling the people with a belief (but with the wiser sort, with only a pretended one) that they were no losers thereby, because they received back from the mint the same number of livres they had paid in; although they only received back four ounces of silver instead of five. This occasioned great quantities of old specie to be hoarded up, to the considerable obstruction of the circulation of money. For this malady a new expedient was fallen upon, viz. the erection of a general bank, whose bills bore 5 per cent interest; for this bank paid only the new raised specie, though they received both new and old specie: as the coins were so fluctuating in value, and the bank bills were invariable, people for that reason carried all their money to the bank. This was allure-ment sufficient for the duke-regent to seize on so vast a treasure: the bank therefor on a sudden was made to stop payment; though the quantity of gold and silver coin then in France was computed to be near 400 millions of livres, or near 17 millions of sterling money. And thus, the king's treasury was filled by the ruin of his people. In like sort, though not quite as yet in so violent a degree, were the public debts paid off in France: the capital was retrenched and the interest reduced by edicts, without the consent of the creditors; insomuch, that some of the public securities fell 50 per cent, others 80 per cent, and some 90 per cent: which sad state of things produced innumerable bankruptcies.

There was coined in the tower of London, from August 1715 to August 1716, £1,452,155 in gold; and but £7,000 in silver; [*Boyer's Political State of Great Britain, for August 1716*] and it was reckoned, that near two thirds of that gold was from French louis d'ors melted down.

No redress being obtained for the invasion of the privileges of the English East-India company, a proclamation was issued by the prince of Wales, guardian of the realm in his father's absence, strictly prohibiting his majesty's subjects from trading to the East-Indies under foreign commissions, contrary to the privileges of the English East-India company; and also from serving on board such foreign ships.

Some controversies having arisen this year concerning the trade of Great Britain into the countries within the Baltic sea, we find in a periodical paper, formerly well known by the name of *Boyer's Political State of Great Britain*, for the month of November 1721,\* the total value, at prime cost, of all merchandize either imported or exported, between Great Britain † on one side, and Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the East country, (i. e. Prussia and Livonia) and Russia, on the other, during the said year 1716, viz.

\* It consists in all of 60 volumes 8vo, and extends from 1st January 1715 to 31st December 1740. A.

† The imports and exports of Scotland are not included in this statement. M.

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Imported in the year 1716, into Great Britain,                         |            |
| From Denmark and Norway, in mafts, timber, pitch<br>and tar, hemp, &c. | L 73,896 * |
| From the Eaft country, chiefly in mafts, hemp, &c.                     | 103,635    |
| From Sweden, chiefly in iron, pitch, tar, mafts, &c.                   | 136,959    |
| From Ruffia, chiefly in hemp, pitch, tar, mafts, &c.                   | 197,270    |
| Total imported   | 511,760    |
| Exported from Great Britain, viz.                                      |            |
| To Denmark and Norway  | 60,317     |
| To the Eaft country  | 65,293     |
| To Sweden  | 24,101     |
| To Ruffia  | 113,154    |
| Total exported   | 262,865    |
| Total balance, or lofs to Great Britain                                | L248,895   |

Excepting fome few commodities from Ruffia and Pruffia, as rhubarb, and fometimes raw filk from Perfia, cavear, &c. all other articles got from thofe northern parts are fince this time difcovered to be had from our own American plantations; as iron from New-York and Pennfylvania, timber of all kinds from moft of our continental colonies, pitch and tar from the fame, as alfo hemp and flax. Raw filk, increafing apace, from Carolina and Georgia. Our legislature have indeed enacted fundry bounties on feveral of thofe commodities already with good effect; and, we hope, will give earneft attention more and more to fuch important purpofes. We will not, however, anfwer for the precise exactnefs of the above account; but fear the general balance is increafed againft us fince that time, more efpecially with refpect to Ruffia †.

Mr. Bubb, the British minifter at Madrid, in behalf of the South-fea company, now concluded a treaty by way of an explanation or emendation of the affiento contract for negroes: but as that trade has been long fince laid afide, we fhall not detain our readers with what is elfewhere in print, and may likewise probably be of very little information or ufe to any at this time, or perhaps at any other period of time. Only we may juft remark, that the annual fhip allowed, was ftipulated to be of 650 tons, Spanifh meafure, from the year 1717 to the year 1727.

1717.—The Dutch Eaft-India company's privileges were now prolonged for forty years.

An unnatural rebellion of free and proteftant fubjects, in behalf of a popifh pretender, and againft a moft humane and indulgent proteftant king on the throne of Great Britain, being happily fuppreffed, the miniftry and parliament determined to take advantage of a time of tranquillity to reduce the intereft on the public debts, preparatory to the

\* The odd fhillings and pence are thrown out. A.

† This account may be compared with that of the year 1701. A.

gradual reduction of the principal, for which good purpose the reduction of the legal interest of money from 6 to 5 per cent in 1714, had indeed paved the way; as did also what is usually called the natural interest of money, or that rate of interest at which money might now be borrowed on good private security. In order that this good and great end might be attained with success and security, the government treated with the bank and South-sea company, to whom a great part of the national debt was due, and brought them to agree, not only to the reduction of the interest on their own respective capitals from 6 to 5 per cent, but that the bank should advance to the public, when wanted, £2,500,000, and the South-sea company the sum of £2,000,000, at 5 per cent interest, to be in readiness for paying off such of the proprietors of the orders of four lotteries of the reign of Queen Anne, and of other redeemable annuities, as should demand their principal money to be paid to them, rather than accept 5 per cent instead of their present interest of 6 per cent. This salutary scheme was effected in consequence of three several acts of Parliament. [3 *Geo. I.*, cc. 7, 8, 9.]

By the first, intituled, an act for redeeming the duties and revenues which were settled to pay off the principal and interest on the orders made forth on four lottery acts, &c. commonly called the general fund, the two companies were impowered to borrow money on their common seals, or to make calls on their proprietors, for enabling them to advance to the public the two sums above specified: the reduction of interest to commence from michaelmas 1727, for which interest a new annual fund was hereby established, and has ever since been called the general fund, amounting to £724,849 : 6 : 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ . Hereby measures were so well concerted by the government, that all the proprietors of those redeemable duties acquiesced in the reduction of their interest from 6 to 5 per cent, without borrowing any part of the stipulated sums to be advanced by the bank and South sea company.

For by the act [c. 8] for redeeming several funds of the bank, pursuant to former provisos of redemption, &c. the bank's willingness to accept 5 per cent interest for all the debts due to that corporation was declared, instead of their then allowances, and to advance the above £2,500,000 if called for: and the bank was hereby to deliver up £2,000,000 of exchequer-bills; for which they were to have an annuity of £100,000 redeemable on one year's notice, after christmas 1717. This is called the aggregate-fund, first established by an act [1 *Geo. I.*, c. 12] though not particularly applied to lessening the national debts till now. Hereby also the bank was to have 3 per cent per annum and 1d. per cent per diem instead of of 2d. formerly allowed for circulating the sum of £2,561,025, being the remaining exchequer-bills, till fully cancelled, from christmas 1717: so that the whole capital of the bank was hereby increased to £5,375,027 : 17 : 10, viz.



|   |   |   |            |            |       |
|---|---|---|------------|------------|-------|
| The original capital stock was                          | - | - | L1,600,000 | 0          | 0     |
| The exchequer-bills, cancelled by the 7th of Queen Anne | - | - | 1,775,027  | 17         | 10    |
| And now by exchequer-bills cancelled                    | - | - | 2,000,000  | 0          | 0     |
| Total bank capital                                      |   |   | -          | L5,375,027 | 17 10 |

But their original capital of L1,600,000 was to continue at six per cent interest to the 1st of August 1742.

The next act [c. 9] was for redeeming the yearly fund of the South-sea company at six per cent, and settling on them a yearly fund at five per cent, redeemable by parliament, &c. as before mentioned, viz.

The South sea Company's present capital being 10 millions,

And their present annual fund being L600,000, their fund was now reduced from six to five per cent, i. e. from L600,000 to L500,000 from midsummer 1718, besides their yearly allowance of L8,000 for charges of management. The company were also hereby impowered to borrow money on their common seal, either for the purposes of this act, or for carrying on their trade, or other necessary occasions, at such interest as they should think fit, and for any time not less than six months: and although their fund might be redeemed, on one year's notice, after midsummer 1723, yet their trade and corporate capacity was hereby to continue for ever. This was, in the stile of the exchequer, called the South-sea fund.

By all these savings, viz. by one per cent on the funds before mentioned, and by one penny per cent per day, saved for the future on the exchequer-bills hereafter to be circulated, a good foundation was laid for the famous sinking fund, amounting then to L323,434 : 7 : 7½ per annum. Moreover, for the greater conveniency of the proprietors of the lottery-orders and other debts at the exchequer, hereby ranged under this new general fund, they were brought from the exchequer to the bank, and erected into a transferrable stock, at five per cent interest. The yearly saving or surplus, called the sinking fund, was hereby to be solely applicable to the discharge of the principal and interest of such national debts as were contracted before christmas 1716. As by the act c. 7, the moiety of the original bankers debt, which had been fixed at six per cent by the act 12 *Gul. III. c. 12*, and which moiety was thereby properly made the whole debt on the public to be redeemed, amounting to L664,263, was included in the redemption from six to five per cent. And as almost all the other public debts comprehended in that act, called the aggregate-fund, were either subscribed into the South-sea company in the year 1720, or have since been paid off or annihilated, we have the more concisely described them, as they now exist no more.



*N. B.* By a clause in the said act [c. 7] the duty of 6*d* on every piece of forty ells of British-made linen exported, which had been laid on by the tonnage and poundage act, was taken off; 'the said manufacture' (says this act) 'employing many thousands of the poor of this kingdom.'

Thus out of the three funds, called the aggregate, the general, and the South sea fund, was formed the sinking fund; being purely the savings out of those funds by the several reductions now and afterwards made in the rates of interest and allowances; and as these have at different times been lessened, and annual or other payments have been made to the creditors of the public out of the sinking fund, it has proportionably increased\*.

We shall only farther remark on this first famous reduction of the interest on the national funds, and the establishment of a fund for farther lessening the public debts, that instead of lowering the prices of the several stocks at market, it was seen, that, by michaelmas in the year 1717, they had considerably risen in price; and particularly that South-sea stock, which, at lady-day 1717, was but at 100 $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent, got up to 111 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent by michaelmas.

The regent of France having, in the year 1716, erected the first public circulating bank that had ever been in France, by the persuasion of Mr. John Law, a native of Edinburgh; whereby he proposed mighty matters for the advancement of the commerce and manufactures of France: 'which kingdom,' says the preamble to the patent for that bank, very justly, 'by its situation and fertility, wanted nothing but a solid credit to establish therein the most flourishing commerce. Wherefore the Sieur Law has now authority granted to him and his company, for 20 years, to issue notes, as a public bank, with absolute protection for the cash of foreigners, even though their country should be at war with France. The crowns or money of this bank to be always of the same weight and fineness, and their notes to be always payable on demand. This bank might keep cash for merchants, and discount bills of exchange, &c.' This bank, of which the regent called himself the protector, was principally projected by Mr. Law for the grand purpose of paying off the public debts of France, being above 1500 millions of livres, or about 70 millions sterling, by drawing its creditors into the newly-projected Mississippi or India company; for which end, the Sieur Crozat was brought to resign his patent of the country of Mississippi, granted to him by the name of Louisiana, in the year 1712. The regent therefor now erected a company of commerce by the name of the company of the West, commonly called the Mississippi company,

\* It was because the hint for this sinking fund was probably taken from those of Holland in the year 1655, and the pope in the year 1685, that the success of those foreign schemes of finance has been noticed in our work. *A.*

with the sole trade thither, and also the trade of beaver to Canada, for 25 years: and great pains were taken to spread all over France pompous accounts of the country of Mississippi, from north latitude 29, up to the country of Canada, or New France, in north latitude 40.

Mr. Law was appointed chief director of this company, into which all the national debts were intended to be brought, being now at 60 to 70 per cent discount; this being an exact copy of the earl of Oxford's scheme for the South-sea company in the year 1711. In December 1717, the capital stock of this Mississippi company was fixed at 100 millions of livres, with four per cent interest. In the meantime, as the bank was to co-operate with this company for the said grand scheme, the king directed all the receivers of his revenues to make their receipts and payments in bank bills only. As the public debts were taken in at par, it might have been expected that the creditors would have readily come in; yet it was some time before they could get 100 millions subscribed, where we will leave them for the present.

This new company for Louisiana would not fail to give grounds of jealousy to Great Britain, its territory lying behind our American plantations, and New Orleans, its capital, having already 600 houses.

There being a considerable scarcity of silver coin in England, by reason our gold coins were rated too high in price, and the great Sir Isaac Newton being consulted thereupon by the lords commissioners of the treasury, he advised the reduction of guineas from 21/6 to 21/, which was accordingly done, by approbation of the house of commons, who addressed the king for this purpose: at which rate they have remained ever since; whereby, in some measure, the silver coins, which before had been exported in exchange for gold, were kept at home. Guineas were originally coined only for 20/ in silver, and so were the old broad pieces of King Charles I, though at this time passing for L1 : 3 : 6. But now the case is going to be the reverse, occasioned by the vast exportations of silver bullion to the East-Indies, whereby silver is become scarcer, and gold is become more plenty, by the profit of bringing gold from India and China. For silver ever has, and probably ever will, hold the prerogative of being the fixed standard, gold being always valued by silver, but not silver by gold. It was asserted, that our East-India company had exported in one year near three millions of ounces of silver to India, which was more than was imported from all parts.

In the same year, there was a treaty of alliance concluded between Great Britain, France, and the states-general of the United Netherlands, for the guarantee of the treaty of Utrecht; and particularly for maintaining the order of succession to the crowns of England and France thereby established; and for the demolition of the ports of Dunkirk and Mardyke. [*Collection of treaties*, V. iv, p. 39, ed. 1732.]

Article IV) ' For the entire destruction of the port of Dunkirk : the great passage of the new sluice of Mardyke, which is 44 feet wide, shall be demolished from top to bottom, and the little sluice shall be reduced to 16 feet in breadth. The jetties and fascine-work to be also demolished : it being hereby the intention of the contracting parties, that no more jetties nor fascine-work shall ever be again made on the shore of this coast, for any port or haven at Dunkirk, or at Mardyke, or at any other place whatever within two leagues from either of those two places. The demolition of the jetties or piers on both sides of the old canal, or port of Dunkirk, shall be entirely finished and made level with the ground all the way from the lowest ebb as far as within the town of Dunkirk : and if there shall remain any pieces of Fort-blanc, Chateau-verd, and Bonne esperance, they shall be totally laid flat to the ground.'

Never surely were articles stronger worded for the entire execution of this part of the treaty of Utrecht : and the three contracting parties also mutually agree to guarantee this as well as the other articles relating to the order of succession, by respectively contributing, viz. the two crowns each 8000 foot and 4000 horse, and the states 4000 foot and 2000 horse, in case either of the allies should be attacked by any other potentate, or be disturbed by intestine rebellions, or on any other pretext whatever. And in case the said succours be not sufficient, the allies should agree in concert to furnish a greater, and, if the case shall require it, they shall declare war against the aggressors, and assist one another with all their forces. *Articles VI, VII*) But, by the separate articles, the guarantee and succours are both limited to the territories of the respective allies in Europe only.

This year the South-sea company's first annual ship, the Royal Prince, failed for La Vera Cruz.

About this time, and for some time backward, there were great complaints against the Swedes for the unjust captures of many British merchant-ships and their cargoes, though in time of peace ; and for sheltering British rebels, contrary to treaties, and particularly to that of the year 1700, with this very king of Sweden. Yet matters could not be settled during his life ; but he being killed the following year, at the siege of Frederickshall in Norway, an accommodation was soon after concluded with his sister and successor Ulrica Eleonora.

The right of British subjects to cut logwood, (or, as the Spaniards term it, Campeachy wood) came again this year on the carpet \*, and the lords commissioners of trade and plantations, in a representation to his Britannic majesty, asserted, and proved beyond contradiction, the right of his subjects to cut logwood in the bay of Campeachy. This was

\* See above in the year 1662.

occasioned by the Spanish ambassador extraordinary, the marquis de Monteleone having delivered a memorial against the British settlement in the isle of Trist, and on the Laguna de Terminos in the bay of Campeachy, where they continued to cut logwood: declaring, 'that if, in the space of eight months, they do not leave the place, they shall be looked on and treated as pirates.' That board represents to his majesty, 'that since a trade of so great importance to our navigation and the American colonies is in danger of being lost, we have again carefully perused the books and papers in our office, and have received from the merchants and others the fullest information we can hope to obtain, which hath taken up much time. And we now humbly crave leave to lay before your majesty the past and present state of this trade, with the arguments that formerly engaged your majesty's royal predecessors to protect and support the same; to which we shall add some observations, and the reasons that induce us to conclude, your majesty's subjects have now as full and ample a right to this trade as to any other liberty or privilege that has been allowed by the crown of Spain, and enjoyed by them, by virtue of any treaty whatsoever.

'First, logwood is one of the productions of the province of Yucatan, where the Spaniards are possessed of San Francisco de Campeachy, its capital town and port (which has been thrice taken by the English) and of two other inland towns, Merida and Valladolid, having but few inhabitants: but the rest of the province, before the English logwood-cutters were settled, was in a manner wholly desolate and uninhabited. It is, however, allowed, that the Spaniards had from time to time cut wood in several parts near their own settlements: but, during the hostilities in the West-Indies before the year 1667, they deserted that employment, being frequently interrupted by the privateers, both by sea and land; who, by degrees, becoming acquainted with the coast, and with those parts where the wood grew, that were most remote from the Spaniards, at last fell into the trade, and laid the foundation of their future establishment near Laguna de Terminos, and Trist and Beef islands. For, notwithstanding the treaty of Madrid, concluded by the earl of Sandwich in the year 1667, was principally intended to adjust our commerce with Spain in Europe, yet a general, firm, and perfect, amity being thereby concluded, it was construed to extend to America as well as to Europe; wherefor many of the British privateers were then induced to quit their former course, and to settle with the logwood-cutters in the Laguna de Terminos: so that in the year 1669, their numbers were considerably increased, and great quantities of wood were transported both to Jamaica and New-England.

' The American treaty, for restraining depredations in those parts, concluded in 1670, encouraged several others of the privateers or seamen to fall into this employment of cutting wood, to which, it was now generally supposed, they had a right by the said treaty.

' And Sir Thomas Lynch, then governor of Jamaica, transmitted to the lords of the council, his reasons for encouraging this trade, viz.

- ' I) That the English had done so for divers years.
- ' II) It was in desolate and uninhabited places.
- ' III) That it seems a possession granted by the American treaty.
- ' IV) It might give a right to seclude the Dutch and French, if we should break with Spain.
- ' V) The Spaniards had not, to that time, made any complaints of it.
- ' VI) This employ makes the reducing of the privateers more easy.
- ' VII) And, that it will employ 100 sail of ships annually, and bring in more to his majesty's customs and the nation's trade than any colony the king hath.

' Although at first they found the logwood by the sea-side, they were afterward forced to go four or five miles up into the country for their refreshment, where they planted Indian provisions, and built houses to keep themselves from the sun and rain. That, in all the time of their working, they had never seen any Spaniard, or other person, although they had gone six or seven miles farther into the country, to kill deer, &c. That Sir Thomas Lynch, governor of Jamaica, in 1672, wrote all this to the earl of Arlington, secretary of state; and that this kind of possession is held in the West-Indies to be the strongest that can be, viz. felling of wood, building of houses, and clearing and planting the ground. That the depositions of many English concerned in this logwood trade were, in substance, as follows, viz. that our king's subjects have been used, for some years, to hunt, to fish, and to cut logwood, in divers bays, islands, and parts of the continent, not frequented or possessed by any of the subjects of his catholic majesty, and without any molestation; which cutting of logwood there, had been approved of by the committee of the king's privy-council. Which allowance gave fresh vigour to the logwood-cutters: although about that time the Spaniards began to interrupt them, and to dispute their right to that liberty which they had so long quietly enjoyed. For it is an undoubted fact, that from the publication of the treaty of 1667, until about two years after the conclusion of the American treaty in 1670, the logwood-cutters had never been in the least disturbed, either directly or indirectly. Nor does it appear, that the Spanish governors took any umbrage at, or made any complaint about, it; much less did they pretend to an exclusive right, or that it was contrary to the laws of their commerce. That the English who were settled at the Laguna de Terminos, in resentment for the Spaniards having taken two



' English ships which had logwood on board, seized on a Spanish bark  
 ' at the said Laguna, bound to Tabasco: yet the governor of San Fran-  
 ' cisco de Campeachy, in vindication of the first hostilities of the Spa-  
 ' niards, complained of by Sir Thomas Lynch in 1672, took not the  
 ' least notice of those English ships having logwood, nor of our cutting  
 ' logwood, nor of our being for some years settled on the said Laguna,  
 ' nor did he assign any other reason for making those reprisals, but our  
 ' having taken the said Spanish bark. That the English having been  
 ' in possession of the Laguna de Terminos prior to the American trea-  
 ' ty of 1670; and the 7th article of that treaty running as follows: it  
 ' is agreed, that the king of Great Britain shall have, hold, and always  
 ' possess, in full sovereignty and propriety, all the lands, countries,  
 ' islands, colonies, and other places, be they what they will, lying and  
 ' situate in the West-Indies, or in any part of America, which the said  
 ' king of Great Britain, or his subjects, now hold and possess; inso-  
 ' much, that they neither can nor ought hereafter to be contested or  
 ' called in question for them upon any account, or under any pretence  
 ' whatsoever. That by the queen regent of Spain's cedula, in June  
 ' 1672, declaring such to be pirates who should make invasion, or trade  
 ' without licence, in the ports of the Indies, it does not appear, that  
 ' cutting of logwood was then esteemed an invasion. Yet, by virtue of  
 ' this cedula, it was at length carried to that height, that, if our ships  
 ' had but any logwood onboard, they were confiscated without remedy,  
 ' although the said cedula was inconsistent with the American treaty,  
 ' and made *ex post facto*, after the ratification of that solemn treaty.  
 ' That although in 1680 the Spaniards violently dislodged our log-  
 ' wood-cutters from the said island of Trist, and the Laguna de Ter-  
 ' minos, yet in 1682 our trade to and from those parts was greater  
 ' than ever. That, excepting two or three months after the aforesaid  
 ' assault in 1680, it is well known to the Spaniards, that we have been  
 ' ever since possessed of those parts where we cut logwood. That a  
 ' clause in the first article of the treaty of commerce at Utrecht de-  
 ' termines this contest relating to the cutting of logwood beyond all  
 ' possibility of dispute for the future, viz. after the confirmation and ra-  
 ' tification of the American treaty of 1670. It follows:

' Without any prejudice, however, to any liberty or power which the  
 ' subjects of Great Britain enjoyed before, either through right, suf-  
 ' ferance, or indulgence.

' If therefor this comprehensive clause, which relates only to the  
 ' West-Indies, confirms, secures, and re-establishes, those liberties, which  
 ' the subjects of Great Britain enjoyed in America before the treaty in  
 ' 1670, it necessarily follows, that they having then enjoyed the liberty  
 ' of cutting logwood without any interruption, as hath been fully prov-  
 ' ed, either through right, sufferance, or indulgence, they are again in-



‘ titled by this (Utrecht) treaty to the same liberty, in as plain and  
 ‘ exprefs words as can be used or imagined. And that your majesty  
 ‘ may be more fully apprised of the importance of this trade, the same  
 ‘ will be effectually demonstrated by the following account of the quan-  
 ‘ ties of logwood imported since the war, viz. In the year 1713, 2189  
 ‘ tons, 15 cwt. In 1714, 4878 tons, 14 cwt. In 1715, 5863 tons, 12  
 ‘ cwt. and in 1716, 2032 tons, 17 cwt. being, one year with another,  
 ‘ 3741 tons; which cannot be computed at less than L60,000 per an-  
 ‘ num, though the price at present be reduced from L40 to L16 per  
 ‘ ton: whereas, before your majesty’s subjects were settled there, it was  
 ‘ worth L100 per ton.

‘ Nor is this trade less necessary than beneficial to your majesty’s do-  
 ‘ minions; by reason of the great encouragement it gives to our seamen  
 ‘ and shipping. Upon the whole, therefor, we are humbly of opinion,  
 ‘ 1<sup>st</sup>, that the subjects of this your majesty’s kingdom, for some years  
 ‘ before, as well as after the American treaty of 1670, did enjoy an un-  
 ‘ interrupted liberty of cutting logwood in those parts of the bay of  
 ‘ Campeachy not inhabited by Spaniards; either through right, suf-  
 ‘ ferance, or indulgence: 2<sup>dly</sup>, that the said American treaty did esta-  
 ‘ blish a right in the crown of Great Britain to the Laguna de Termi-  
 ‘ nos, &c. those places, at the time of the treaty, and for some years  
 ‘ before, being actually in possession of the British subjects: 3<sup>dly</sup>,  
 ‘ that the royal cedula, issued out by the court of Spain, was a viola-  
 ‘ tion of that treaty, forasmuch as the carrying on the trade to the La-  
 ‘ guna de Terminos was thereby interpreted an invasion, and the log-  
 ‘ wood-cutters accounted pirates. And that your majesty’s subjects  
 ‘ having been at least suffered to enjoy the liberty of cutting logwood,  
 ‘ as aforesaid, before the conclusion of the American treaty, although  
 ‘ your majesty should not insist on your right to the Laguna de Termi-  
 ‘ nos, yet that the same liberty is absolutely granted and confirmed by  
 ‘ the treaty of commerce made at Utrecht. And we do farther think  
 ‘ it our duty to represent to your majesty, that, although the said  
 ‘ Spanish ambassador seems to declare in his memorial, that no attempt  
 ‘ should be made to dislodge your subjects, settled on the Laguna de  
 ‘ Terminos, in a less time than eight months from the date of his me-  
 ‘ morial, yet they were dislodged and taken prisoners in the same  
 ‘ month the memorial was delivered, as appears by several affidavits.’

All which is humbly submitted by

(Signed)

*Suffolk,*

*J. Moleworth,*

*J. Chetwynd,*

*D. Pultney,*

*Charles Cooke,*

*M. Bladen.*

Whitehall, Sept. 25, 1717.

1718.—In March 1718 the South-sea company’s second great annual  
 ship was launched, and named the Royal George, in honour of his majesty  
 King George I, the company’s governor. But the commerce of that

company was completely ruined in its infancy by the war with Spain, which began this year: and their effects, factors, and servants, in the Spanish West-Indies were seized and detained, contrary to the asiento-contract, whereby they ought to have had eighteen months time allowed them for the removal of their effects, &c. which the company's agent at Madrid represented in very strong terms to the cardinal minister, whose answer was, that the company should be indemnified whenever peace should be concluded; yet the same was never effectually performed: and though this war was but of a short duration, the company, nevertheless, suffered considerably by it; and toward the close of this year, represented to his Britannic majesty their various grievances, which were in substance, viz.

I) That whereas in respect to the queen's two ships, the Bedford and Elizabeth, laden for the company's account, by virtue of two cédulas granted by the king of Spain in the year 1714, the former to Carthagena, and the later to Vera Cruz, yet the Bedford's cargo was confiscated, on the pretext of over-tonnage, though it afterward appeared upon remeasurement, that its cargo was under the stipulated tonnage. Yet the obtaining a suspension of the sale of that cargo, till the company could appeal to Europe, cost an excessive sum to the Spanish officers, besides the loss of their market, &c.

II) That the cargo of the Elizabeth had an alcavala (or duty) laid on it at Vera Cruz, to a very great amount, though the king of Spain had expressly specified that it should pay no duty whatever, on condition that he should enjoy 10 per cent out of the profits thereof: which imposition he afterward confirmed and extended to all the company's future annual ships, though contrary to the 42d article of the asiento contract.

III) The king of Spain's suspending the company's new ship the Royal George from sailing this year, after having on board a cargo of near £300,000 value, which was thereby much damaged, was a very great loss to the company.

IV) By laying exorbitant duties on the company's ship permitted to load fruit at the Canaries for the Spanish West-Indies.

V) By laying duties on the purchasers of the company's negroes.

VI) By conniving at, and permitting, many negroes to be imported clandestinely by others, contrary to the asiento contract.

VII) By obstructing the company's officers from loading homeward, either tobacco or cacao, likewise contrary to the asiento.

VIII) By false measuring of the company's negroes, and denying justice therein.

IX) In delaying justice in law-suits against the Spanish officers, for extorting exorbitant fees for the negroes imported by the company.

X) By obliging the company's factors at Panama to pay the duties on slaves confiscated and indulted, contrary to the usage of former asientists.

XI) For compelling the company's factors at Panama and the Havana, to pay a duty of six pieces of eight for the burial of each negro.

XII) In denying the company's factors at Buenos-Ayres the lands stipulated by the assiento contract to be assigned them for raising cattle, provisions, &c. and for their negroes.

XIII) Extorting extravagant port-charges there, for the company's ships, and obstructing their purchasing goods there: with other abuses at that port, and at Panama.

XIV) The Spanish guarda-costa ships stopping the company's assiento ships, and taking from them sundry things not contraband.

For these and some other grievances and defects in the assiento contract, the company prayed his majesty to procure redress, which he was graciously pleased to promise, when the differences with Spain should be adjusted.

*N. B.* By the seizure of the company's effects on the breaking out of this war, they are said to have been losers above £200,000, which was never effectually made good.

In this same year, the Dutch colonists at Surinam in Guiana are said to have begun to plant coffee; which was then thought to be much better than either the coffee of Martinico or Jamaica.

About this time, according to Bishop Huet, (in his *Memoirs of the Dutch commerce*) the Dutch sent annually to the countries within the Baltic sea no fewer than 1000 or 1200 ships to load the bulky commodities of those northern countries, with which they supply many other parts of Europe; so vast then was, and in a great measure still is, their trade to Denmark, Sweden, Russia, Prussia, Livonia, &c. within that sea.

The selling or buying of chances, and parts of chances, of tickets in the state-lotteries of Great Britain, being at this time in general practice, a clause in an act of parliament for continuing certain duties on coals and culm, &c. prohibited such practices: and also all undertakings resembling lotteries, or being on the footing of a state-lottery, were strictly prohibited, under the penalty of £100, over and above all penalties enjoined by former acts of parliament against private lotteries.

The Ostenders still continuing their trade to East-India under the emperor's protection and commissions, an act of the British parliament, of this 5th year of King George, passed, for the better securing the lawful trade of his majesty's subjects to and from the East-Indies, and for the more effectual preventing all his majesty's subjects from trading thither under foreign commissions; whereby it was enacted, that whereas it is of great importance to the welfare of this kingdom, that the trade to and from the East-Indies be regulated according to acts of parliament and the royal charters; and that, particularly by an act of the 9th of King William III, the East-Indies should not be visited nor

frequented by any British subjects other than such as might lawfully trade thither, under the penalties therein set forth; and that the goods laden from India should, without breaking bulk, be brought to some port in Great Britain to be unladen. Notwithstanding which restrictions, and the proclamation of the year 1716, several British subjects, not intitled under the said laws, have presumed to trade to India in foreign and other ships, to the diminution of his majesty's customs, and the trade of this kingdom; wherefor the contraveners are hereby declared liable to all the penalties of the laws in being. And, moreover, the East-India company is hereby authorized to seize on the persons of all such British subjects as shall be found within their limits, and to send them prisoners to England: and that all or any British subjects, acting under a commission from any foreign potentate, shall forfeit £500 for every such offence. This act was farther continued, by the 5th of *Geo. II.* c. 29, for seven years from the 1st of May 1732, and to the end of the then next session of parliament.

A bill, in the house of peers, for continuing a duty on the trade and navigation of this kingdom, and for repairing Dover harbour, met with much opposition. The merchants alleged, that this harbour had, for many years past, been a burthen to the trade and navigation; although its situation was such, that whenever the wind blows hard from the sea, i. e. from south-east to south-west, the entrance of the pier is so choaked with small stones, washed in by the wind and sea, that very often, at high water, a hoy of 30 tons cannot get in or out, and the packet-boats are liable to the same misfortune. That the charges on our navigation, called petty port-charges, were so high, that a ship of 250 tons paid each voyage £30 sterling, of which at least £6 : 5 was for the repair of this pier and harbour. That the mouth of the pier is but 100 feet in breadth, and the channel much narrower, occasioned by a lodgment of stones: and at the pier-heads the tide runs so strong directly across it, that it is both difficult and dangerous to get in or out, several ships having been lost in the attempt. That the execution of the act for this duty had already cost upwards of £20,000, although it be much the same as before. Neither can it be made of any advantage to any but fisher-boats and small vessels using the place. Yet the same duty was continued, though hitherto to very little purpose.

The pirates in the West-Indies, and especially among the Bahama islands, being at this time a great obstruction and detriment to the British commerce, the king's ships, and the proclamation for surrendering themselves by a limited time, had the desired effect; and the peaceable navigation of those seas was restored.

In May 1718, new louis d'ors and new silver coins were coined in France, which were to pass for considerably more than their intrinsic value, much to the detriment of the commerce of France; and all the

old monies, heavier than this new coin, were called in. And to make this foolish and wicked scheme appear somewhat uniform, the prices of gold and silver bullion were hereby to be accommodated thereto. Foolish it was, because the monied part of the world was too wise not to take advantage thereof, to the detriment of the state; and wicked, as it brought great misery upon many thousands of individuals. And in the same month and year the king, or rather the duke regent, by letters patent, ordained the capital of the bank to consist of 1200 shares, of 1000 crowns each. Yet in the same year the king took this bank into his own hands, and published, 'that he had paid off all the proprietors of the said L1,200,000 capital, which sum, as a further security for the future just management of this now royal bank, he had lodged with the general cash thereof;' yet this supposed sum was not in actual cash, but only in actions of the Mississippi company belonging to the king. This was a part of Mr. Law's scheme for bringing about an union of the bank with that company, for the execution of his grand project of paying off the public debts by getting them subscribed into this company. It was no difficult matter for intelligent men to foresee the ruin of the bank, from the moment of its being called royal, and to foretell, what soon after happened, the ruin of vast numbers of opulent and honourable families, not only, though principally, in France, but in other parts of Europe, rashly venturing deep into this project, formed under an absolute government, which, by a dash of the pen, could undo every thing at pleasure. When the old coins were thus called into the mint, it was directed, 'that there should be permitted to be therewith brought into the mint, two fifth parts in state bills, because, says this extraordinary edict, the disreputation of those state bills has proved an obstruction to commerce and to the circulation of money.' The other wise reason for this edict was, 'that by thus stamping an higher value on the gold and silver coins of France, gold and silver from other countries would be brought thither in greater abundance.' The new-coined and over-valued crowns of six livres were now ordered to be paid and received at that price in the bank. Yet all this was reversed towards the end of the following year by arrets, which gradually reduced the new gold and silver coins to very near their intrinsic value; as the court saw the vast detriment, which enhancing the nominal value of the new coins had done to the crown as well as to commerce. Four millions per annum were allotted for the interest of such public debts, being 100 millions, as had been already subscribed into the Mississippi company; and, for a farther allurements, that company had the entire farm of tobacco granted to them for nine years; whereupon they set about transporting great numbers of artificers, planters, labourers, and soldiers, to Louisiana: and a great stir and bustle was artfully made in order to allure people to become



adventurers in the stock of this company, already arrived at the price of 120 per cent.

It was found, that the allowances granted by former laws relating to the duties on salt, upon exportation of fish, much exceeded the duty itself on the salt used in curing the fish; for remedy whereof, it was now enacted, [5 *Geo. I. c. 18*] that the curers of fish for exportation, instead of all former allowances, should be permitted to use either foreign or British salt, without paying any duty, excepting the custom on importation of the foreign salt; and that salt intended to be used in curing fish, should be warehoused, and the proprietor should make oath of the quantity, and that it is intended for curing fish for exportation only: and after the fishing season, the remaining salt to be again warehoused, and the proprietor to give an account of the quantity of fish exported, on which the salt was used, and the remaining salt to be delivered over to other persons, for the same end: persons not giving true accounts upon oath, forfeit £40, &c. then follow the allowances to be made by collectors of the salt duty to the exporters of fish, viz. on pilchards, cod, ling, and hake (wet or dry) salmon, white and red herrings, and dried sprats, certain allowances therein specified, either by the barrel or the hundred weight, or else by the number of fish, with their size, &c. needless herein to be specified; it not being our intent to particularize every law relating to the regulation of merchandize, but only to take notice of any great or remarkable alteration, like this of the allowances on salted fish exported.

1719.—The island of St. Lucia in the West-Indies has at sundry times been inhabited by both English and French planters at the same time: about this time the Marechal d'Etrees sent a colony thither, but our ambassador at Paris remonstrated against it with such spirit and success, that the French court sent orders to evacuate that island for the present.

For the farther execution of Law's wicked scheme of drawing in the numerous proprietors of the national debts of France to be paid with the Mississippi stock and royal bank notes, he was in the beginning of the year 1719 made director general of that bank, in the same year creating, in different months, no fewer than 1000 millions of livres, (i. e. between 40 and 50 millions sterling) in new bank notes; less (says the royal arret) not being sufficient for the various operations of the royal bank; though in fact this sum was more than all the banks in Europe could circulate.

In the meantime, still the more to inveigle mankind, Law persuaded the regent to unite the French East-India company to this new Mississippi or western company. The preamble to this edict shews the very bad state of their East-India company's affairs, viz. that notwithstanding the sums of money, ships, &c. bestowed on the East-India company from



time to time, and their many privileges and immunities since their first erection in the year 1664; yet, instead of increasing their commerce, they had totally abandoned their navigation, and were now about to sell their exclusive privileges to some private persons for certain allowances; though they might as well have made their commerce profitable to their proprietors and to the kingdom, as the East-India companies of other nations have done. That though the original fund was not large enough, yet their directors injudiciously lavished it away, borrowing money afterwards at 10 per cent interest. Nay they even paid L5 per cent per month for the interest of the bullion they procured for their eastward cargoes, which swallowed up all the profits of the voyage. That King Louis XIV still continued his kindness to that company; but the East-Indians complaining that the company did not pay either principal or interest of their just debts, and that they had not sent one ship to Surat in 16 years time, they being greatly in debt there, from whence cottons and almost all the spices and drugs of India and Arabia are brought; the subjects of France, to their immense loss, are compelled to buy of strangers those and other Indian wares, not only for home consumption, but also for carrying on the trades of Senegal and Guinea; though at triple the prices they would otherwise have cost. Neither is their trade to China better conducted than that to India. For retrieving, therefore, the commerce and honour of France in India, by paying the company's debts (of many millions) there, the king hereby nullifies the privileges of that company, and unites them to this western or Mississippi company, which will thereby be much strengthened. Thus, having before joined the Senegal company to the western one, this newly-consolidated company will have the four quarters of the world to trade in. For these causes we have thought proper to unite those companies, and have granted this now united company the absolutely exclusive commerce from the Cape of Good Hope eastward, to all the rest of Africa, and to Persia, India, China, Japan, and the isles, even to the straits of Magellan and Le Maire; they hereby enjoying all the forts, isles, &c. of the old company, and paying all their debts. How different has the condition of the French East-India company since been from what it was at the time we are treating of?

Moreover, says the king's edict, besides the 100 millions of public debts, already subscribed into the western company's capital, there shall now be a subscription, in ready cash, of 25 millions of new actions, each to consist of 550 livres. And this newly-united company shall henceforward be called the India company.

In July 1719, 25 millions more of state bills were subscribed into this new India company's capital, which was by this time run a great way above par, and, by the vast number of adventurers in that stock, the dirty street called Rue Quinquempoix, was dayly crowded beyond

measure. We may here remark, that a great part of the first stock of this company was subscribed by the king and government alone, which, by the mad running up of the stock, was afterward sold out at 1000 per cent and upwards; and thereby put near 200 millions into the king's coffers: the like was practised by Law on the company's own behalf, thereby enabling them to push their schemes yet farther. In August 1719, for the farther promoting of stock-jobbing, the last 50 millions of India stock had every share split into 100 shares; which brought in the very dregs of the people to be adventurers: whereupon the stock rose to 500 per cent, which again fell to 445 on the bare rumour of the *Sieur Law's* indisposition, and rose again to 610 on his recovery. In the same month the king's arret granted the company the general farm of all the revenues, and prolonged their exclusive term to the year 1770: in consideration whereof the company agreed to lend the king no less than 1200 millions of livres (or about 50 millions sterling) for paying off all the public debts. For this general farm the company agreed to pay 52 millions yearly \*, of which the company was to retain annually 36 millions, as the interest of the 1200 millions lent to the king, for which vast sum they were to take subscriptions at 3 per cent. In the meantime, the bank was ordered to issue 25 millions, in their notes, to the India company, to be sent to Louisiana instead of coin, for carrying on an extensive commerce there; a wretched means for that end in lieu of cash: the company at the same time agreed to pay to the king 50 millions for the sole privilege of the coinage of money for nine years to come. By another arret, the public creditors were permitted to take actions or shares of India stock in payment of their several debts; and thus the public debts were all paid off. The people of France easily swallowed the bait, fondly believing all the fine stories which Law and his emissaries artfully gave out; and the stock in a few weeks more ran up to 1200 per cent, when 150 millions more were added to their capital, by three several subscriptions at 1000 per cent, to enable them to make good their loans to the king; which 150 millions were permitted to be split into such smaller parts as they should take out subscriptions for, whereby the market in Rue Quinquempoix was well supplied.

A false appearance of an unusual plenty of money was now observed at Paris, whereby all things rose in price, and lands near Paris were sold at 50 years purchase; and a wise purchase it was to such as sold out their stock at 1200 per cent, which they very properly termed realizing their stock. By such means, Mr. Law's credit was arrived at the highest pitch; his levee was crowded with persons from most parts of Europe, pressing for subscriptions, which now bringing in so much cash to the company, they were enabled to lend the king 300 millions more, at

\* This was 3½ millions more than was paid for the general farm by Lambert, whom therefor the king now deprived of it, though six years of his grant were unexpired. A

3 per cent. Many were the arts made use of for keeping up the price of the now unwieldy stock ; such as, an arret to enable the company to employ part of their capital for the improvement of manufactures, fisheries, &c. ; also, for improving their tobacco farm ; for supplying the king with all the hemp he should want for his navy ; and many other devices too tedious to enumerate. The king, moreover, engaged, not to erect any other company in France but this. And the company, on their part, engaged not to take in any more new subscriptions \*, nor to increase their capital stock. The payments for the new subscriptions were to be by ten installments, each at a month's distance ; but the new subscriptions soon made the old ones fall, for want of money to pay in on these last ; the first payment of which last new ones was currently sold at 200 to 300 per cent profit ; and yet the old ones were equally good as those of the last subscription : but the quantity of the capital stock, being now 300 millions, made the old subscriptions fall in price : the company therefor, in order to keep them up, declared they would pay 900 per cent for them, which immediately raised them to 1200 per cent ; and the last subscriptions were about 1300 per cent. Now 300 millions of that stock, at the price of 1200 per cent, amounts to 360,000 millions of livres, or about 18,000 millions sterling †.

From the beginning of November 1719 till about the middle of December following the French India or Mississippi stock was in its meridian glory : during which time, more especially, and for some time before and after, the city of Paris was crowded with strangers, and with foreigners from different nations, who hastened thither for dealing in

\* This was necessary in order to keep up the price of the former ones. *A.*

† Which sum is perhaps near 180 times as much as all Europe contained of current cash, supposing it to amount to 100 millions sterling : for, as to what is shut up in banks, and particularly the bank of Amsterdam, (said, by some, to amount to 36 millions) it is not properly the current coin of the country, though it answers in commerce as well as if it were, being but a mere deposit of credit. Yet it is confessed to be very difficult to arrive at a just distribution of the supposed 100 millions of current cash amongst the several nations of Europe, more especially as we have not met with any former attempt for such a proportional distribution thereof, by any author whatever. Yet although, with regard especially to some countries of Europe, we be quite upon mere conjecture, we shall, however, though with diffidence, venture at it in round sums, viz.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Britain and Ireland (millions sterl. money) | 16 |
| France                                      | 18 |
| The 17 provinces of the Netherlands         | 12 |
| Germany, Hungary, and Switzerland           | 9  |
| Spain                                       | 8  |

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Portugal                    | 6  |
| Italy, Sicily, and Venice   | 10 |
| Turkey in Europe            | 8  |
| Russia                      | 6  |
| Poland                      | 4  |
| Sweden, Denmark, and Norway | 3  |

100

So that the utmost, we think, we can reasonably suppose the current cash of Europe, amounts to 100 millions sterling ; and possibly many may conjecture, we have allowed most nations, especially the northern ones, too much, and some perhaps too little. Our judicious readers will not be startled at our allowing Spain and Portugal so small a currency of cash, who supply the rest of Europe with silver and gold ; nor for allowing France so much, when the annual expense of that kingdom is duly considered, as well as that of Britain and Ireland ; the other nations may be variously reasoned upon with respect to the quantum of their cash, from various considerations : as, from the quantity of their commerce and manufactures, from the numbers of their people, from their shipping, the number and magnitude of their trading cities, &c. *A.*

this stock ; infomuch, that it was currently believed, there might then reside at Paris half a million of strangers more than usual, and that 1200 new coaches were set up. Nothing to be seen but new and splendid equipages, new houses, and finery in apparel ; lodgings scarcely to be had for money ; and the highest prices given for provisions, &c. in that city. Yet, in a few more months after, the very reverse of all this was seen to be the miserable condition of both city and country.

By an act for settling certain yearly funds, payable out of the revenue of Scotland, to satisfy public debts in Scotland, and to discharge the equivalents claimed on behalf of Scotland, &c. it was enacted, that, for obviating many doubts and difficulties, which the commissioners of the equivalent found too hard for them to settle, arising from the doubtful and various construction of the 15th article of the union of the two kingdoms, the sum of £248,550 : 0 : 9½ should be a capital stock, transferable, attended with an annuity, or annual fund, of £10,000, out of the excise and customs of Scotland, as also £600 per annum allowed for charge of management, out of those revenues. The king was hereby empowered to incorporate the proprietors thereof, who should have perpetual succession, &c. Yet the said stock is to be redeemable by parliament. [5 Geo. I. c. 20.] The stock remains to this day transferable, and its directors meet weekly at their office in London, being 13 in number, eleven residing in London, and two residing at Edinburgh. Their charter is dated 11th Geo. on the 21st of November 1724. They pay their proprietors 4 per cent per annum.

By this same statute, £2000 per annum, out of the revenues of customs and excise in Scotland, was allotted for ever, to be wholly applied towards encouraging and protecting the fisheries and such other manufactures and improvements in Scotland as may most conduce to the general good of the united kingdom, according to the tenor and true meaning of the 15th article of the union. Provided however, that upon payment by parliament of £40,000, the said annuity of £2000 shall cease and determine.

The irredeemable debt being at this time thought a dead weight on the public, the ministry and parliament were extremely desirous to get rid of as much of it as they could, at a reasonable rate : a bargain was therefor now struck with the South-sea company ; whereby, in the first place, the blank pay-tickets, and the prizes of the lottery of the year 1710, which were irredeemable annuities for 32 years from 1710, were now to be turned into redeemable principal sums at 5 per cent interest, by an act of parliament of the 5th of King George, for redeeming the fund appropriated for payment of the lottery tickets, which were made forth for the service of the year 1710, by a voluntary subscription of the proprietors into the capital stock of the South-sea company, &c. It

was hereby, in substance, enacted, 'that whereas the nation at present  
' pays £135,000 per annum for 23½ years to come, at christmas 1718,  
' to the proprietors of that lottery,'

They were now to have an offer of 11½ years purchase in South sea  
stock, - - - - - £1,552,500 0 0

And they being 1¼ year in arrear, they had an offer  
of stock for the same, being - - - - - 168,750 0 0

Total South sea stock proposed to be given, £1,721,250 0 0

And the government proposing to make, in all,  
an increase of £2,500,000 to the company's capital,  
by that company agreeing to advance the residue in  
money for the public services, the same would be 778,750 0 0

£2,500,000 0 0

The interest of which last sum, at 5 per cent,  
would be, - - - - - £125,000 0 0

To which add, for charges of management, - - - 2000 0 0

So there remained £8000 yearly saved, (as they  
then termed it), at the disposal of parliament, which  
saving they made out to be worth £200,000, - 8000 0 0

£135,000 0 0

And as the company's general court in December 1718 had ordered  
an increase of one half per cent to the dividends on their capital for the  
three succeeding half years, over and above the 2½ per cent for each  
half year, allowed by the public, in order to keep up the old dividend  
of 6 per cent per annum, the increased capital of £2,500,000 should  
also enjoy that benefit, which for 1½ year would be £37,500. This last  
sum was proposed to be deducted out of the above £778,750.

Nevertheless, many proprietors of the lottery 1710 refused to accept  
those conditions: so that of the £135,000, there was only subscribed  
into the South-sea company, - - - - - £94,329 12 0

Which, at 12½ years purchase, made in capital  
stock, - - - - - 1,202,702 8 0

And, in that proportion, the company was oblig-  
ed to advance only - - - - - 544,142 0 10

So the total capital added to the company, by this  
scheme, was but - - - - - £1,746,844 8 10

And the company's allowance from the government for their proportion of the above £37,500 was £26,202 : 13 : 4. Lastly, as £2,500,000 was to £2000, so was £1,746,844 : 8 : 10 (the real augmentation of the company's stock) to £1397 : 9 : 6, the real annual sum, due from the public, for charges of management for the said additional capital.

Thus, however, the South-sea company's capital stock was increased to £11,746,844 : 8 : 10 from christmas 1718, and their whole annuity to £587,342 : 4 : 5. By this act also the whole South-sea capital was made redeemable, on one year's notice after midsummer 1723, on repayment of their capital. This transaction with the public unfortunately laid a foundation (together with the sad example of the Mississippi stock) for the madness of the succeeding year 1720, of which we are, by and by, to give an account. In the meantime, in July 1719, by way of prelude, the South-sea company opened a subscription for the sale of £520,000 of their stock, (part of the above addition to their capital) which they now sold at the price of 114 per cent, whereby they gained £72,800.

A bill was brought into parliament for rendering the laws concerning the importation of naval stores from the British American plantations more extensive, by extending it to all sorts of timber from thence. For, whereas in our trade thither, it sometimes happens, that the crops of tobacco, sugar, &c. fall short, many ships in that case are obliged to come home to Great Britain dead-freighted; and some remain there a whole season, waiting for the next crop; it was therefor imagined by the house of commons, that, if encouragement were given for bringing timber, &c. from our plantations, our ships would be sure of a cargo; whereby the demand from our northern colonies for British manufactures of all kinds, would be greatly increased, and their people diverted from farther attempts at manufactures of their own, interfering with those of Britain and Ireland. But the people of the northern colonies were so surprised and disappointed by some clauses put into that bill, that, rather than they should stand part of it, they were very glad to have it dropped altogether. Such, for instance, as, that none in the plantations should manufacture iron wares of any kind, out of any fows, pigs, or bars, whatsoever, under certain penalties: by which clause, says an ingenious author, on this occasion, in behalf of the colonies, no smith in the plantations might make so much as a bolt, spike, or nail; whereby the colonies must have been brought into a miserable condition; the smith being, above all other trades, absolutely necessary in all other employments there. Amongst the rest, that of ship-building would have hereby been utterly destroyed, although by that article they make a great part of their returns for the purchase of British manufactures. The house of peers added another clause, that no forge,



going by water, or other work whatsoever, should be erected in any of the plantations, for making sows, pigs, or cast iron, into bar or rod iron. This second clause, says the same author, must have ruined all the iron works in the colonies, to the great loss of their proprietors, and have given the French a fair handle to tempt them into their settlements which join to ours. The chief opposers of the manufacture of iron in our American plantations, were the proprietors of our iron works at home; and our author adds, (what is probable enough, or rather within bounds) that the iron manufacture of England, which is deemed the third of the kingdom, employs 200,000 persons: that the waste and destruction of the woods in the counties of Warwick, Stafford, Worcester, Hereford, Monmouth, Gloucester, and Salop, by these iron works, is not to be imagined; and that, if some care be not taken to preserve our timber from these consuming furnaces, there will not be oak enough left to supply the royal navy, and our mercantile shipping: that within these 60 years Ireland was better stocked with oak timber than we now are; but the iron works, since set up there, have in a few years swept away the wood to that degree, that they have not small stuff enough left to produce bark for their tanning, nor timber for common uses; insomuch that at present they are forced to have bark from England, and building timber from Norway, &c. and to suffer their large hides to be exported untanned to Holland, Germany, &c.: that about 20,000 tons of iron are annually imported to England from foreign parts, over and above what is made at home, for which we pay ready money; and at £12 per ton, comes to £240,000, paid annually to foreigners; and the boards and other timber which we take of them, come to £200,000 more: whereas, our own plantations would be paid for their iron and timber in our own manufactures, thereby evidently bringing a double benefit to the nation: that they have iron-stone all along the continent, from the southernmost part of Carolina, to the northernmost part of New-England, in great plenty; and no part of the world abounds more with prodigious quantities of wood, nor with more rivers and streams: that the Swedes have laid near 25 per cent additional duty on their iron; and that the interruptions of our trade in the Baltic had greatly distressed our iron manufacturers for want of iron: that by the naval-store laws, now in force, which comprehend only pitch, tar, and turpentine, such great quantities thereof are produced and imported from our plantations, as enables us to export great quantities thereof to the Straits, Spain, Portugal, Holland, Bremen, and Hamburg: that taking timber and iron, as well as hemp and flax, from our own plantations would employ a vast many ships and people: that iron, in particular, is a commodity of universal use, and certain in all parts of the

world, and therefor as much to be valued as gold or silver : that the Dutch supply Portugal, the Straits, and Turkey, with great quantities of iron ; and had we a full supply of it from our plantations, we might not only ballast our ships with it, but export great quantities to those countries, and even to Africa and India : that hemp, another most necessary naval store, may hereafter be so enhanced by the czar of Russia, from whose ports we are principally supplied with it, as to attempt, like the Swedes, to oblige us to receive it by his own shipping, and at his own prices : finally, our greatest security and riches flow from our American plantations : and, were they encouraged to raise all the naval stores we want, how greatly would our riches be increased as well as our navigation, people, and power. Our author, however, concludes, that negro slaves in our plantations should not be permitted to work in manufactures there, (as certainly many do), but be kept to their original intent for planting and drudgery : and also that the increase of woollen, &c. manufactures there, interfering with those of our own, should be restrained as much as possible.

These are points of the last importance to our commercial interests, wherefor we have enlarged the more upon them, in sundry parts of this work.

A convention was renewed and enlarged this year between his majesty of Great Britain and the free and imperial city and republic of Hamburgh, concerning the trade of herrings, &c. viz.

Article I) Hamburgh grants permission for the free importation of herrings caught on the British coasts, upon paying the same duties of entry as are usually paid for Flemish or Dutch herrings.

II, and III) The British herrings shall be brought into warehouses, and shall be opened in the same manner as those of Holland are.

IV) The senate shall appoint two appraisers and two packers, who shall take an oath of fidelity every year.

V) If the proprietors or their factors come in person, they shall have liberty to sell their herrings to any inhabitants indifferently : and if they cannot dispose of them in eight days, to the inhabitants, they may afterwards sell them to whomsoever they will, or may send them whithersoever they please.

VI) When the proprietors send their herrings to factors, they shall be at liberty to choose their factors either from among the laudable English company (i. e. of merchant-adventurers) residing in the town, or among the burghers.

VII) His Britannic majesty's subjects shall always enjoy the same privileges and advantages in the herring trade, as are, or shall be, granted to the subjects of the states of the United provinces.

VIII) His Britannic majesty's subjects may also bring to Hamburgh, salmon, stockfish, cod, and all other sorts of fish, either dried, smoked,

or in barrels, paying the customary duties. And, in like manner, the inhabitants and burghers of Hamburg shall have free liberty to trade, according to their antient custom, to the provinces of the British kingdoms; and may carry their merchandize thither, and truck or exchange the same for those sorts of fish and other goods.

*Done at Hamburg, 8th February 1719\*.*

It was at this time computed, that from the year 1711 to 1719 (both years included) being nine years, there had been exported from England to East-India, in foreign silver bullion; the sum of £3,786,005, which on a medium is, one year with another, £420,667 annually.

Captain Barlow was sent out by certain private adventurers †, for the discovery of a north-west passage to China, &c. through Hudson's bay. But this proved a most unfortunate attempt; for neither he nor any of his company were ever heard of. Yet a part of the wreck of his ship was said to be found in that bay, in the latitude of 63 degrees north. [*Ellis's Voyage to Hudson's bay, p. 78, ed. 1748.*]

About the close of this year a pamphlet appeared with a proposal for a settlement to be made in the country of Guiana, in South America, by the South-sea company, upon a plan which the anonymous author alleges he had laid before King William 30 years before. His pamphlet is intitled an Historical account of the voyages and adventures of Sir Walter Raleigh (from whom he says he is descended.) But, in our humble opinion, this kinsman of that great man could not have touched upon any part of his adventures which does so little honour to him as that wild scheme; of which we have said enough in its place. next to the project of a north-west passage, this unaccountable whim of a settlement in Guiana has at different times employed our speculative schemers to the least purpose.

In this 5th year of King George I a patent was granted to Sir Thomas Lombe for the sole and exclusive property, for 14 years, of that wonderful machine for silk-throwing, sometime before erected by his brother on the river Derwent, at Derby, by mills, which work three capital engines. This amazingly-grand-machine contains 26,586 wheels, and 97,746 movements, which work 73,726 yards of organzine silk thread every time the water-wheel goes round, being thrice in one minute, and 318,504,960 yards in one day and night. One water wheel gives motion to all the other movements, of which any one may be stopped separately, without obstructing the rest. One fire engine conveys

\* Mr Wich, the resident at Hamburg, who negotiated this treaty, wrote home in October 1719, that the quality of the herrings imported this year from Great Britain had proved exceedingly good. M.

† According to Dr. Forster, he and Captain Knight were sent out together by the Hudson's bay company. [*Discoveries in the north, p. 387 of the English translation.*] M.

warm air to every individual part of this vast machine, containing in all its buildings half a quarter of a mile in length. The model of it is said to have been taken by Mr. Lombe from the original in Piedmont, under the disguise of a common workman, by secretly drawing the plan on paper. These engines have saved a great deal of money to the nation, which they formerly paid for organzine, or thrown, silk to the Piedmontese, altogether with ready money. And (that we may take in all this matter together) the 14 years being run out before Sir Thomas Lombe could make sufficient advantage thereof, upon his application to parliament in the year 1732, £14,000 was granted to him from the public, as a consideration for the eminent services he has done the nation, in discovering, introducing, and bringing to full perfection, at his own great expense, a work so useful and beneficial to this kingdom: provided, however, that his majesty may and shall direct proper persons to view the said three engines, and to take an exact model thereof, to be deposited in such place as he shall appoint, to secure and perpetuate the said art for the advantage of this kingdom. This statute mentions 'the great obstruction to this undertaking by the king of Sardinia, in prohibiting the exportation of the raw silk which the engines were made to work'. [5 *Geo. I. c. 8.*]

1720.—We now enter upon the year 1720; a year remarkable, beyond all others, for extraordinary and romantic projects, proposals, and undertakings, both private and national; as well respecting commercial concerns, as the great internal interests of two of the most potent kingdoms of Europe; which, therefor, ought to be had in perpetual remembrance, not only as being what never had its parallel, nor, it is to be hoped, ever will hereafter; but likewise, as it may serve for a perpetual memento to the legislators and ministers of our own nation, never to leave it in the power of any hereafter to hoodwink mankind into so shameful and baneful an imposition on the credulity of the people, thereby diverted from their lawful industry!

We have seen in the preceding year, to what extravagant lengths the famous Law had led the duke-regent of France, in order to get clear off the public incumbrances, by giving the unhappy proprietors of the French national debts what, in the end, proved little better than nothing. And we are sorry to be obliged to add, that we have in part also already seen our own British parliament and ministry approaching too near, though not intentionally, to such unjust and visionary schemes for lessening the British national debt, by listening to the proposals of crafty projectors, calculated for deceiving and hoodwinking the proprietors of those debts, by altering or changing the names, shape, and position, of them, too much resembling, what is vulgarly called, slight-of-hand, rather than for any solid lessening of those incumbrances, as if any other method whatever, consistently with national justice and honour, could

lessen our incumbrances, but a clear and inviolable sinking fund, the consequence of the frugal savings from the reduction of interest ; and avoiding of all needless expense, more especially in times of settled peace ; and from the increase of foreign commerce proportionably increasing the public revenue. All other methods are an imposition upon, and a disgrace to, a nation enjoying liberty and property. Other methods were, however, at this time adopted, to the ruin of many honourable, and, till then, wealthy, families, to the advancement of many low and obscure persons, and to the great temporary detriment of our commerce.

The grand point, as already observed, which the British government had now in view, was the reduction of what are called the irredeemable annuities, created at divers times in the reigns of King William and Queen Anne, most of them for 99, some for 96 and 89 years, and others for shorter terms, amounting in all to very near £800,000 per annum. And the managers of the South-sea company having been so successful in taking in the greatest part of the annuities of the lottery of 1710, the ministry encouraged the directors of that company to make their proposals for reducing them all into a redeemable state. It is now become unnecessary to relate a great deal of what passed on this subject. In January that company at first proposed to the house of commons to give £3,500,000 to the public, for the privilege of taking in all the said irredeemable debts, and also the redeemable debts then at the exchequer and bank, mostly bearing 5 per cent, either by purchase from the proprietors or by subscription, into their capital stock. This project exciting the jealousy of the bank of England, the directors of the later on the very same day offered above five millions for the same privilege. This rivalry proved in effect the bane of the whole plan : for a second proposal of the South-sea company amounted to no less than £7,567,500, in case all those debts should be subscribed, and in that proportion for any part of them ; and also proposed farther, to pay to the use of the public one year's purchase of all such of the long irredeemable annuities as should not be brought into their capital. The bank made a second proposal, more advantageous to the public in sundry respects, and therein obliged themselves to give £1700 bank stock for every £100 irredeemable long annuity. Let any one of common understanding consider one moment, how it could be possible for either company to perform what they now proposed, so as not to be losers themselves, without egregiously deceiving and injuring the proprietors of these debts ! Was it not therefor most unaccountable in any British parliament and ministry to give encouragement to proposals of so obviously pernicious a nature ?

It seems, that, upon the king's arrival from Hanover in November 1719, this scheme was laid before the ministry by the managers of the



South-sea company; who, flushed with their late success, aimed at no less than incorporating all the funds of the bank, the East-India company, and the exchequer, into their own capital. But, though that was not relished, the very rumour of some such scheme raised their stock to 126 per cent at the shutting of the books for christmas 1719. In conclusion, the South-sea company's last proposal was accepted in parliament, and a bill brought in for enabling that company to increase their present capital stock and fund by redeeming such public debts and incumbrances as are therein mentioned; for raising money to be applied for lessening several of the public debts and incumbrances; for calling in the present exchequer-bills remaining uncanceled; and for making forth new bills in lieu thereof, to be circulated and exchanged upon demand at the exchequer.

The opposers of this bill in parliament in vain urged (what afterward proved but too true) that it was calculated for the enriching of a few, and the ruin of many: that it countenanced the pernicious practice of stock-jobbing, thereby diverting the proper genius of the people from trade and industry: that the artificial raising of South-sea stock so high while the bill was depending (viz. to 319, per cent) was a dangerous bait for decoying the unwary to their ruin, by a false prospect of gain, to part with what they had gotten with labour and industry, for imaginary wealth: that it would give foreigners an opportunity of perhaps tripling the great sums they already possessed in our funds, and would thereby drain the kingdom of its treasure, when they should realize their stock: that a national bargain should be wisely made, with more advantage to the public than to individuals; but this scheme was quite the reverse; since, if South-sea stock should be kept up at 300 per cent, its old members would gain above thirty millions, whilst the public were to avail themselves of but a quarter part of that sum: that although neither of the proposals of the two rival companies were fit to be received, yet that of the bank was fairer, as they declared plainly what they would give the long annuitants in their stock. But if, nevertheless, the South-sea company's proposals should be accepted, the rise of their stock should be limited, for preventing the pernicious effects of stock-jobbing in so high a degree as was like to happen. To all which, and much more, said against the scheme, it was answered by the ministerial advocates, that neither the ministers nor the company could foresee this great rise of the stock: for had its price remained as it was when the bargain was first struck, viz. at 137 per cent, the public would have been the greater gainer: that the ministry had nothing in view, but easing the nation of part of its present heavy load of debt, and putting the remainder in a method of being gradually discharged; and lastly, that it was but reasonable, that the company should enjoy the profit of the rise of stock procured by their own prudent conduct, &c.



It is to little purpose now to enlarge on the methods then taken by the South-sea company's managers, for enabling them to execute so vast a scheme; such as, making their dividend warrants at christmas 1719 to carry interest till christmas 1720, sums under £20 only excepted; obtaining an act of this same session, for making forth new exchequer-bills, not exceeding one million, at a certain interest, and for lending the same to the South-sea company at an higher interest, &c. taking in four money-subscriptions for the sale of their stock which they proposed to gain by the scheme; which large money-subscriptions were particularly intended for enabling the company to pay off the holders of such of the redeemable debts as should choose to take their principal money, instead of subscribing the same into that company; and also for paying the above great sum to the public for the privilege of this scheme; which last sum was destined by this act to be applied, in the first place, to pay off all such debts, not included in the company's new capital, as carried 5 per cent interest, and afterward to pay off part of the company's capital at 5 per cent. They were also hereby empowered to make calls of money on their members, or to open books for subscriptions, or to grant annuities redeemable; or by such other methods for raising money as their general courts should direct; such as loans on contracts, bills, bonds, or obligations, under their common seal, or on the credit of their stock, which hereby was all to be reduced to 4 per cent redeemable at midsummer 1727. And the additional allowance for management was to be in proportion to that allowed for their old capital. Not less than one million to be paid the company at any one time: but their trade and privileges were to continue for ever.

The debts proposed to be taken in were,

|   |          |   |   |
|---|----------|---|---|
| 1) Irredeemable long annuities, per annum | L666,821 | 8 | 3 |
| Ditto short annuities,                    | 127,260  | 6 | 1 |

|                 |   |   |   |           |    |   |
|-----------------|---|---|---|-----------|----|---|
| Making together | - | - | - | L.794,081 | 14 | 4 |
|-----------------|---|---|---|-----------|----|---|

The long annuities originally did not, in general, cost the proprietors above sixteen years purchase; so that the proprietors had already been over-paid their principal with legal interest, and yet, after so many years elapsed, their present market price was considerably more than what was originally paid for them at the exchequer; and therefore they were now deemed an incumbrance on the public equal to their current value, and were to be justly considered in that light only.

For these long annuities the company obliged themselves to allow the proprietors twenty years purchase; and fourteen years purchase for the short annuities: but the main fallacy was, that the company was not limited in the price they were to put on their stock to be given to them. Whereas, on the contrary, the bank's second proposal obliged

themselves to offer £1,700 bank stock for every £100 per annum of long annuities, and in like proportion for the short ones.

Total so valued was - - - - - £15,118,072 11 0

II) The redeemable debts at the exchequer and bank, carrying 5 per cent interest, amounted to £11,779,660:11:3 $\frac{3}{4}$ ; and those at 4 per cent to £4,766,821:15:9 $\frac{1}{4}$ . So that if all the public debts aforesaid, amounting to £31,664,554:18:1 $\frac{1}{4}$ , had been subscribed, the South-sea company's capital stock would have been increased to the sum of £43,411,399:6:11 $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The South-sea directors, who were also, by commission, trustees for taking in the public debts, opened their first money-subscription on the 14th of April, for the sale of two millions of their stock at 300 per cent, the market price that day being 325. Some of the directors seemed to dislike this method, as copying too closely the Mississippi proceedings: yet the junto of managers judged it adviseable, for keeping up the price of stock. And such was the concourse of persons of distinction to that subscription, that it was increased to £2,250,000, and thereupon it soon fold for double the price of the first payment, which was £60, and the stock rose to 340 per cent.

Their next master-piece was in a general court, where now were seen many of the highest rank and quality, to vote a dividend of 10 per cent in stock for midsummer half-year 1720, as well to the new subscribers as to the old capital. This dividend was one great cause of the ensuing calamities, by occasioning too high an opinion of the value of the scheme.

At the same general court it was resolved to grant money-loans on stock, as far as £500,000 (secretly enlarged to £900,000) for four months at 5 per cent. There were also at this time large premiums given by the agents of the managers for the refusal of stock at very high prices. More money was afterward lent out both on stock and on subscription-receipts. On the other hand, the directors were constantly solicited for more subscriptions, loans, &c. And to so great a height was the frenzy already got, that the bare resolution of the court of directors, on the 28th of April, to receive the irredeemable annuities into their stock influenced many of the proprietors of those annuities actually to deposit their annuities at the South-sea house, and implicitly to subscribe the same, before they knew what terms they were to have for them: some of whom, nevertheless, were the loudest afterwards in the clamours against the directors.

On the 30th of April a second money-subscription was taken for one million of stock at £400 per cent price; and this subscription was, in like sort, increased to £1,500,000.

On the 19th of May the directors declared the terms for the irredeemable subscribed to be,

For the long annuities, thirty-two years purchase, and at that rate

they gave them L700 stock for each L100 annuity, at 375 per cent, its value being - - - - - L2,625 0 0

And they gave them in bonds and money to the amount of - - - - - 575 0 0

The total, as they were thus valued, was - L3,200 0 0

For the other long annuities, called 14 per cents, they gave for each L98 per annum, the same stock, valued as above L2,625 0 0

And in bonds and money - - - - - 511 0 0

Total - - - L3,136 0 0

And in this proportion for any greater or lesser sum of those annuities.

For the short irredeemables, called 9 per cents, which, as well as the blank and prize tickets of lottery 1710, they valued at seventeen years purchase, they gave the following terms, viz.

The 9 per cents for every L90 per annum, had L350 stock at 375 per cent - - - - - L1,312 10 0

And in bonds and money - - - - - 217 10 0

Total - - - L1,530 0 0

For prizes of lottery 1710 for every L100 per annum they had L400 stock at 375 per cent, which is - - - - - L1,500 0 0

And in bonds and money - - - - - 200 0 0

Total - - - L1,700 0 0

For blank tickets of lottery 1710, for every L98 per annum, L350 stock at 375 per cent, which is - - - - - L1,312 10 0

And in bonds and money - - - - - 353 10 0

Total - - - L1,666 0 0

Considering the frenzy of this time, it must be confessed, that these terms to the irredeemables were tolerably fair, had the subscribers been allowed the immediate disposal of the stock now allotted to them, which was far from being the intention of the junto. We must here also remark, in favour of the directors, that they gave six days time to these first subscribers to declare their acceptance or non-acceptance of the terms \*. So that in this, and most of the other transactions relating to this great and unparalleled affair, the subscribers, especially in the for-

\* The stock being above 500 per cent on the 25th of May was a great temptation to accept. A.

mer part of the madness, were equally accessary to their own future losses with the conductors of the scheme; all ranks and classes of persons eagerly forwarding their own ruin, through an excessive thirst of gain; for, the numerous dealers in South-sea stock and subscriptions, by daily continuing to buy, in the hope of their still rising higher, of which rise they themselves were the principal cause, did undoubtedly lay a temptation in the way of the managers for still growing more extravagant in the conditions of their future subscriptions \*. This, nevertheless, was by no means a sufficient vindication of the court of directors, who, as sworn trustees for the proprietors, ought to have either stopped the unreasonable rise of stock, or else have disqualified themselves, and by a public declaration to the world have testified their absolute disapprobation thereof. Neither indeed was the board of treasury, who framed the famous act, to be at all justified, for not laying effectual restraints therein against even the bare possibility of any unreasonable rise of stock.

|  |   |            |    |   |                                     |
|--|---|------------|----|---|-------------------------------------|
| The first subscription<br>of the irredeemable debts<br>amounted to - | { | L427,340   | 18 | 9 | of the annuities for long<br>terms. |
|  |   | 48,132     | 0  | 0 | of 9 per cent annuities.            |
|  |   | and 15,988 | 4  | 0 | of the lottery 1710.                |

By the daily rise of South-sea stock, the fame and credit of the leading directors and managers rose in proportion. Addressees were made to them from persons of high rank ; and, in testimony of ministerial approbation, several of the directors had the hereditary honour of baronet conferred on them. Yet, very soon after, there happened such sudden fluctuations in their stock, sometimes even in the space of a few hours, as might have given clear indications of its precarious value, notwithstanding the various arts daily practised to keep it constantly rising. For, though on the 2d of June it got up to 890 per cent, yet that vast price bringing many sellers the day following to Change-alley (now become a second Rue Quinquempoix), it fell before night to 640, and yet the same evening rose again to 770. On the 6th it was at 820, but by the 14th fell to 710. Many were obliged to sell out their stock to enable them to make their second payment on the first money-subscription ; and some began to have their eyes opened by the judicious calculations of Archibald Hutcheson and others. These alarming considerations obliged the managers to lend out great sums of money on South-sea stock at 400 per cent. Those loans answered a double purpose, 1<sup>st</sup>, by locking up so much stock as was so pawned, and 2<sup>dly</sup>, by

\* The author of this work remembers distinctly, that farther on in this summer a certain director (Mr. Ed——n, long since dead) being asked by a gentleman at Garraway's coffee-house, whether the report was true, that the court of direc-

tors intended soon to open their third subscription at 1,000 per cent, he facetiously replied, *Truly gentlemen seem to strive to talk us into some such price, whether we will or not. A.*

supplying the borrowers with the means of buying more; so that, though the price of the stock was somewhat under 800 per cent, the junto ventured so far out of their depth as to take a third money-subscription, for the purchase of stock at 1000 per cent in ten different payments of L100 each, for five millions of stock: crowds of people attended at the South-sea house, loudly calling for a new subscription, and even named the said price of 1000 per cent. And, in a few days, their first payment of L100 rose to L400. Of the five millions now paid in for the first payment, the managers lent out in one day three millions, for supplying the stock-market with cash. A few days after the midsummer shutting of their books, the price of South sea stock for the opening of them was at 1000 per cent and upwards, including the 10 per cent midsummer dividend.

Whilst South sea stock was thus in its meridian glory, the frenzy in part affected the other two great companies by raising them greatly above their just value, viz. East-India stock to 445 per cent, and bank stock to 260 per cent. This rise was partly occasioned by the fellers out of South-sea stock, and also out of the bubbles, (as they were justly termed) or numerous lesser stocks, at very high prices; who thought their money safer in the stocks of those two great companies. The advanced prices of all those stocks, greater or lesser, of every kind, were computed, about midsummer 1720, to amount to about 500 millions sterling; or about five times as much as the current cash of all Europe. And if the yearly rents of all the lands and houses in Great Britain do not exceed fourteen millions, and the utmost value thereof, houses and lands together, do not exceed sixteen years purchase on an average, or two hundred and twenty-four millions of money; then here was above double the value of the fee-simple of all the immoveable property of the nation in this chimerical traffic; while the real and substantial traffic of many of the dealers therein was for many months in a great measure suspended, or at least much neglected.

On the 4th of August the second subscription of the irredeemable annuities was taken at the South sea house, viz.

L125,392 17 6 long annuities.

18,750 0 0 nine per cents.

and 14,906 6 0 of lottery 1710.

1<sup>st</sup>, The long annuities, all but the 14 per cents, had L400 South sea stock, and L400 in bonds and money for each L100 per annum, those annuities being now valued at 36 years purchase. 2<sup>dly</sup>, And for every L98 per annum of the L14 per cents, they gave L420 in stock, and L168 in bonds and money. 3<sup>dly</sup>, For every L90 per annum of the nine per cent annuities, they allowed L200 stock, being  $17\frac{2}{9}$  years purchase. 4<sup>thly</sup>, For every L100 per annum of the prizes of lottery 1710, they gave L200 stock, and L150 bonds and money, which was  $17\frac{1}{2}$  years

purchase. 5thly, For every L98 per annum of the blank tickets of 1710, they gave L210 stock, and L35 in bonds and money, being likewise at the rate of  $17\frac{1}{2}$  years purchase.

At the same time there was subscribed L14,393,788 of the redeemable debts, every L100 being taken in or valued at 105, and, on the 12th of August, South-sea stock being about 910 per cent, the midsummer dividend included, they declared their valuing stock at 800 per cent for these redeemables subscribed. But, although these redeemable proprietors were about 16,000 persons in number, they were not allowed the choice of withdrawing their subscriptions, after the price was now declared; which made a most grievous clamour soon after upon the fall of the stock.

Many ways were now found necessary by the junto to keep up the price of South-sea stock, after thus taking in the proprietors of the public debts at such extravagant rates; such as giving credit for six months, at 4 per cent interest, for the third payment of the first subscription, and the second payment of the second money-subscription, in order to keep a plenty of cash in the dealers hands, &c.

But of all the rash proceedings of the managers during the execution of their scheme, none proved more quickly fatal than their obtaining of the government, on the 18th of August, a *scire facias* against those airy projects called bubbles, which, at this time, were become very numerous, and had greatly advanced in their prices, even after an act of parliament of this same session [c. 17] had passed for suppressing them, intitled, an act for better securing certain powers and privileges intended to be granted by his majesty by two charters for assurance of ships and merchandize at sea; and for lending money upon bottomree: and for restraining several extravagant and unwarrantable practices therein mentioned, as well as a royal proclamation for enforcing the laws against them: insomuch, that Change-alley, like the Rue Quinquempoix at Paris, was dayly crowded from morning till night, as well as the coffee-houses, with dealers in those bubbles; many of whom, having obsolete and forfeited charters, under that pretext took large money subscriptions for carrying on what they had no right to do. Others of them grafted new and additional projects on their obsolete charters, originally granted for very different purposes. A third species of bubbles, and the most numerous, did not even pretend so much as to any such obsolete charters, or other authority whatever. It is indeed very true, that the traffic in these did greatly promote luxury, idleness, and extravagance, in the middling and lower classes of people, diverting them from their wonted industry and frugality. But the great mistake of the South-sea managers concerning those bubbles was their belief that their traffic obstructed the rise of South-sea stock; whereas, on the contrary, it was quickly found, that the trade in them was assisting



in keeping up the price of South-sea stock : for, very many of the lower people, not being at first able to purchase South-sea stock, ran greedily into the bubbles, and even into smaller shares or parts of them ; and, having soon gained considerably therein, they very often came afterward into South-sea stock and subscriptions. And thus those lesser currents or rivers were a constant supply to the great South sea ; but this the managers did not perceive till it was too late.

It appeared, by an inquiry of the house of commons in February preceding, that this new humour of new projects or bubbles had been on foot for two or three years past ; as also appeared by a petition in January 1718 for a charter for insuring ships and merchandize, signed by near 300 merchants and gentlemen, and that a million of money had been previously subscribed for it. Another petition, about the same time for a grand fishery company, was signed by seven peers of the realm, and many merchants and gentlemen. A third petition was, in May 1719, by the societies of the city of London for the mines-royal, the mineral and battery works, under certain obsolete charters of Queen Elizabeth and King James I, for mines, &c. for a like patent to insure ships and merchandize, for which £1,152,000 had been subscribed. These were, in the main, the same persons as those in the first petition : they petitioned a third time, on the 8th of January 1720 [N. S.], only as so many private gentlemen and merchants, (dropping their claim by the obsolete charters) and were in the end successful by their present name of the Royal-exchange assurance company, their capital consisting of £500,000. That same day, another body of petitioners applied for a patent for insuring ships and merchandize, with a subscription of two millions, and were incorporated also in the end, by the name of the London assurance company. This last company had at first two separate subscriptions, which were afterwards united. Their capital at present consists of 36,000 shares, on each of which £12:10 was originally paid. This was the original rise of the present two very useful and flourishing insurance corporations, who also are empowered to lend money on bottomree ; and each of them afterward obtained charters for insuring from loss by fire. Yet neither of them are by the statute, nor by their consequent charters, exclusive in any respect relating to private persons, who may and still do practice insurance on ships and merchandize as formerly ; but with respect to all other corporations they are both exclusive ; excepting, however, the East-India and South-sea companies, both which corporations may still continue to advance money (says the statute) by bottomree on their own ships.

A third petition of a different body of people was presented to the king on the 21st of January 1720 [N. S.] for an insurance charter, which did not succeed. And,

On the 8th of the same month three English peers, two bishops, and an

Irish peer, with many eminent gentlemen and merchants, petitioned the king, that they might be incorporated for purchasing and improving forfeited and other estates in Great Britain: for granting annuities for lives; and for insuring lives: seeing (continues this petition) this will unite, by interest, many of the king's subjects against the pretender and his adherents forever. In order to which, several of the petitioners have sent persons into Scotland for purchasing the forfeited estates there, and have since, by a voluntary subscription to the governor and company of undertakers for raising the Thames water in York-buildings, raised a joint stock of £1,200,000 sterling: upon the credit of which estates they propose to grant annuities for, and to insure on, lives, for the benefit of such of his majesty's subjects as are straitened in their fortunes by the reduction of interest: but they did not desire any exclusive charter. The same day also, another set of gentlemen in vain petitioned for the very same purpose.

When those petitions for insurance, &c. came to be referred to, and considered by, the crown lawyers, they were opposed by counsel on the other side, the grand fishery scheme alone excepted, viz. the insurance petitioners, by the numerous friends of the private insurers, and by the amicable society for a perpetual insurance on lives, with benefit of survivorship; which society, their counsel set forth, was incorporated in the 5th year of Queen Anne, (1706) constituting any number of persons, not exceeding 2000, to be a body politic, for raising a joint stock, for the relief of widows and orphans, by granting policies on lives, with annual payments during such lives; on the decease of which lives a certain sum is paid as a dividend to the proprietors of such policies; and alleging, that these petitions for insurances would prejudice their interests.

The petitioners for purchasing the forfeited estates were advised by counsel to withdraw their petition, as they might safely transact all they wanted to do, by virtue of the powers of a charter of the 27th of King Charles II, for raising the Thames water in York-buildings; which charter these petitioners had purchased of the old patentees for £7,000, together with all the benefits of a private act of parliament of the 2d of William and Mary, for incorporating the proprietors of the water-works in York-buildings, and for encouraging, carrying on, and settling, the said water-works.

The two first petitions for insurance were, as already noted, approved of, and the crown lawyers reported, that a fishery charter, under proper regulations, might be very beneficial to the nation. The fishery had been farther favoured by a resolution of the house of commons, on the 27th of April 1720; that the undertaking proposed to be carried on by the name of the British fishery, wherein the sea ports and royal burghs are concerned, may be successfully carried on, and thereby prevent great sums from going annually out of the nation; may secure a valuable

trade, and may, upon any emergency, furnish seamen to man the royal navy; and therefor highly deserves encouragement. Nevertheless, no charter was at this time granted for the fishery; owing to the improbability, if not impossibility, of any company being able (unless an exclusive one) to carry on a profitable fishery: since, if private undertakers, being on the northern coasts, are not as yet able to beat the Dutch out of the fishery, it is highly improbable, that a joint-stock company, which is never so frugally managed as private adventurers manage their own money, should prove successful; of which we have a more recent proof at present, notwithstanding the most unparalleled parliamentary encouragements.

The two insurance companies were both incorporated on the same day, the 24th of June 1720, the statute in favour of them having had the royal assent 14 days before; each having power to purchase lands, &c. of £1000 yearly: but no person can be either a director or proprietor of both companies at the same time. Each company's capital not to exceed £1,500,000: may make calls on their proprietors, without limitation: may create bonds under their common seal, for advancing money on parliamentary security; but for not less than six months time. Each corporation to pay £300,000 for discharging the king's civil list debts\*. No other corporation shall insure but these two; yet private insurers may act as before: may be determined by the king's charter, if found inconvenient to the public; in which case no other corporation shall ever be erected in their stead with the like privileges. They both have very considerable capital stocks, and therefor may reasonably be presumed a greater security to our merchants than private insurers can be fairly admitted to be, how just and honourable soever their principles and character, and how large soever their fortunes in general may be: a list being on this occasion laid before the attorney-general of 150 private insurers who had failed in but a few years past†. It was then also urged in behalf of insurance companies having large capitals, that the merchants of foreign nations in alliance, or at peace, with us would now probably be induced, in great numbers, to make their insurances at London; and thereby bring an additional benefit to the kingdom. As both the insurance companies have continued punctually and inviolably to sustain their credit and reputation, this just commendation of both of them fell naturally in our way.

The act of parliament before mentioned, for enabling the king to incorporate those two insurance companies, was also expressly for restraining several unwarrantable practices therein mentioned; several such

\* Part of the £300,000 was afterwards remitted to each of the companies. *A.*

† Few of these insurers had underwritten more than £50; a sum which would be thought contemptibly cautious in the present day. *M.*

projects of different kinds having, since the 24th of June 1718, been set on foot in London and other parts of the kingdom, as also in Ireland, which manifestly tend to the common grievance of the subject; the contrivers whereof, under false pretences of public good, have presumed to open books for public subscriptions for the same, and have drawn unwary persons to subscribe large sums to such undertakings, paying down only small proportions thereof, which yet upon the whole do amount to very large sums; in many cases acting as bodies politic, by transferring shares, &c. Others acting under charters granted for quite different purposes, and others under obsolete charters, become void by non-user or abuser, &c.: which dangerous projects relate to several fisheries, &c. wherein the trade, commerce, and welfare, of the people are concerned. For the suppression and prevention of which mischievous practices, it was enacted, that, from the 24th of June 1720, all such undertakings and attempts so described as aforesaid, and all other undertakings tending to the common grievance, and all public subscriptions, receipts, payments, assignments, and transfers, for such matters, should be forever deemed illegal and void, and be liable to such fines and punishments as the laws direct. And persons acting as brokers for others, or for themselves, either in buying or selling, should forfeit £500, and be incapable of acting afterwards as such. But this act did not extend to undertakings settled before midsummer 1718\*. Lastly, the two insurance corporations, hereby established, are expressly restrained from lending money to the crown on parliamentary funds, except on the credit of acts of parliament.

The more to enforce this statute, the king, on the very day he passed it, viz. on the 11th of June 1720, issued a proclamation, strictly enjoining the observation of the later part of it relating to those projects vulgarly called bubbles; whereby it might have been expected, that they would have all shrunk to their original nothing in a moment. For a few days, indeed, some check was thereby given to that frantic traffic: yet, maugre all authority, it soon revived, and even increased more than ever, and while they daily advanced in price, every one was a gainer, whereby the lower class of people fell into luxury and prodigality, as well as their betters. From morning till evening, the dealers therein, as well as in South-sea stock, appeared in continual crowds all over Exchange-alley, so as to choke up the passage through it. Not a week day passed without fresh projects recommended by pompous advertisements in all the newspapers, thereby swelled enormously, directing where to subscribe to them. On some 6d per cent was paid down; on others 1s per cent; and some came so low as 1s per thousand at the time of subscribing. Some of the obscure keepers of those books of subscrip-

\* Sundry undertakings not incorporated, such as the several fire-insurance offices, the several subscriptions to the South-sea company, &c. were saved harmless by this clause. A.

tion, contenting themselves with what they had got in the forenoon by the subscriptions of one or two millions, (one of which the author particularly well remembers) were not to be found in the afternoon of the same day, the room they had hired for a day being shut up, and they and their subscription books never heard of more. On others of those projects 2s, and 2/6, per cent were paid down; and on some few 10 per cent were deposited, being such as had some one or more persons of known credit to midwife them into the alley. Some were divided into shares, instead of hundreds and thousands, upon each of which so much was paid down, and both for them and the other kinds, there were printed receipts signed by persons utterly unknown. Persons of quality of both sexes were deeply engaged in many of them, avarice prevailing at this time over all considerations of either dignity or equity; the gentlemen coming to taverns and coffee-houses to meet their brokers, and the ladies to the shops of milliners and haberdashers for the same ends. Any impudent impostor, while the delusion was at its greatest height, needed only to hire a room near the alley for a few hours, and open a subscription book for somewhat relative to commerce, manufacture, plantation, or some supposed invention, either newly hatched out of his own brain, or else stolen from some of the many abortive projects, of which we have given an account, in former reigns, having first advertised it in the newspapers the preceding day, and he might, in a few hours, find subscribers for one or two millions, and in some cases more, of imaginary stock. Yet many of those very subscribers were far from believing those projects feasible: it was enough for their purpose that there would very soon be a premium on the receipts for those subscriptions; when they generally got rid of them in the crowded alley to others more credulous than themselves. And in all events, the projector was sure of the deposit-money. The first purchasers of those receipts soon found second purchasers, and so on, at still higher prices, coming from all parts of the town, and even many from the country. And so great was the wild confusion in the crowd in Exchange-alley, that the same project, or bubble, has been known to be sold at the same instant of time 10 per cent higher at one end of the alley than at the other end. Amongst those many bubbles, there were some so barefaced, and palpably gross, as not to have so much as the shadow of any thing like feasibility. The infatuation was at length so strong, that one project was, in the newspapers, advertised thus: for subscribing two millions to a certain promising or profitable design, which will hereafter be promulgated.

We can well remember one of those named globe-permits, which came to be currently sold each for 60 guineas and upwards in the alley, which nevertheless was only a square bit of a playing card, on which



was the impresson of a seal in wax, being the sign of the globe tavern in the neighbourhood, with the motto or inscription of fail-cloth permits, (without any name signed thereon), the possessors thereof being to be hereafter permitted to subscribe to a new fail-cloth manufactory, projected by one who was then known to be a man of fortune, though afterward involved in great calamities and disgrace.

These instances, out of hundreds more that might be produced, are sufficient to display the frenzy of the time: when the taverns, coffee-houses, and even victualling-houses, near the Exchange were constantly crowded, and there was known to be much extravagance therein. The very advertisements of those bubbles were so many, as to fill up two or three sheets of paper in some of the daily newspapers for some months. Yet, all men were not infatuated: and one advertisement in a weekly newspaper well enough burlesqued the madness, in the following strain. 'At a certain (sham) place, on Tuesday next, books will be opened for a subscription of two millions, for the invention of melting down sawdust and chips, and casting them into clean deal boards without cracks or knots!'

Before we return to the remainder of the execution of the grand South-sea scheme, we shall, as an useful warning to posterity, here exhibit a more complete catalogue than any we have seen, of the stocks, subscriptions, projects, or bubbles, of this unparalleled time, with their highest prices in Exchange-alley, before the fatal *scire facias* had (like the touch of Ithuriel's spear) reduced them all to their proper size and value!

|                            | Original money paid in or due. |    |    |   | Highest prices sold for in 1720. |    |    |  |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----|----|---|----------------------------------|----|----|--|
|                            | £.                             | s. | d. |   | £.                               | s. | d. |  |
| 1) South-sea stock -       | 100                            | 0  | 0  | — | 1000                             | 0  | 0  |  |
| Ditto 1st money-sub-       |                                |    |    |   |                                  |    |    |  |
| scription, at 300 per cent | 120                            | 0  | 0  | — | 750                              | 0  | 0  |  |
| 2d do. at 400 per cent     | 80                             | 0  | 0  | — | 600                              | 0  | 0  |  |
| 3d do. at 1000 per cent    | 100                            | 0  | 0  | — | 440                              | 0  | 0  |  |
| 4th do. at 1000 percent    | 200                            | 0  | 0  | — | 245                              | 0  | 0  |  |
| East-India capital stock   |                                |    |    |   |                                  |    |    |  |
| L3,200,000 - - -           | 100                            | 0  | 0  | — | 445                              | 0  | 0  |  |
| Bank of England ca-        |                                |    |    |   |                                  |    |    |  |
| pital, then L5,559,995     |                                |    |    |   |                                  |    |    |  |
| 14/8 - - - - -             | 96                             | 13 | 5½ | — | 260                              | 0  | 0  |  |

This was the bank's nominal or transferable capital: yet the government actually owed them



|  | Original money paid in or due. |    |    | Highest prices sold for in 1720. |    |    |
|--|--------------------------------|----|----|----------------------------------|----|----|
|  | £.                             | s. | d. | £.                               | s. | d. |
| no more than L5,375,027 17/10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> , (till the year 1722, when they purchased 4 millions of the South-sea company) whereby L100 bank stock, as due from the public, was now really no more than L96 13/5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> . So that all its advanced value must and did arise from the profits of banking! |                                |    |    |                                  |    |    |
| Royal African stock, old capital L400,000, additional one L1,600,000   | 23                             | 0  | 0  | 200                              | 0  | 0  |
| II) Million-bank, L500,000 - - -   | 100                            | 0  | 0  | 440                              | 0  | 0  |
| York-buildings company, L1,200,000 -   | 10                             | 0  | 0  | 305                              | 0  | 0  |
| Lustring company, 10,000 shares, valued at L1,200,000, not worth one farthing, - - -   | 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>  | 0  | 0  | 120                              | 0  | 0  |
| English copper company, - - - - -  | 5                              | 0  | 0  | 105                              | 0  | 0  |
| Welch copper company, worth nothing at all,  | 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>  | 0  | 0  | 95                               | 0  | 0  |
| Royal fishery company, worth nothing,  | 10                             | 0  | 0  | 25                               | 0  | 0  |
| (N. B.—The Hudson's-bay company's capital being so small as about L110,000 was engrossed by so few, that it was not known what its price was at that time.)  |                                |    |    |                                  |    |    |
| III) Note also, that besides the great legal companies, whose stocks were usually transacted in Exchange-alley, there were, and still are, some whose  |                                |    |    |                                  |    |    |

capitals are too small to come thither, and do therefor vary but little in price; such as, the New-river company; the London-bridge water company; the Shadwell, Hampstead, Southwark, and Chelsea, water companies. Also the Sunfire-office insurance: fundry also of obsolete joint-stock corporations, so far sunk and deserted, that their stock at this time bore no price at all: such were,

The mine-adventurers company of England,

The sword-blade company,

The frame-work knitters company, and

The charitable corporation for pledges.

IV) For local and particular purposes, viz.

For making the river Douglas navigable, -

For freshwater brought to Liverpool, - - -

Temple-mills brass-works, - - - - -

Fish-pool, for bringing fresh fish by sea to London (Sir Richard Steele's)

Harburg company (for bringing commerce thither from \*Hamburg, and for a lottery there, 1,500,000 nominal capital) - - - - -

Original money paid in or due. Highest prices sold for in 1720.

| £. s. d.        | £. s. d.                                   |
|-----------------|--|
| 5 0 0 per share | 70 0 0 per share                           |
| 10 0 0 —        | 20 0 0 per share                           |
| 10 0 0 —        | 250 0 0 per share                          |
| — — —           | 160 0 0 } per share before any money paid. |
| 15 0 0 per cent | 120 0 0 per cent                           |

Puckle's machine gun,  
called the defence, -

Another Harburg sub-  
scription, (Burgess's) inef-  
fectual.

V) Projects or bub-  
bles, having neither char-  
ter nor act of parliament  
to authorize them: none  
of which were under one  
million, and some went  
as far as ten millions:  
very many whereof are  
distinctly remembered by  
the author of this work,  
how ridiculous and im-  
probable soever they may  
now seem to many not  
acquainted with the in-  
fatuation of that year,  
viz.

The Orkney fishery,  
Globe permits, (for  
subscribing some time or  
other, to a project for a  
sail-cloth manufacture)

For building ships to  
let to freight, - - -

For raising hemp and  
flax at home, - - -

Another, in Pennsylv-  
ania, - - - - -

Improvement of land,  
(Sir John Lambert's)

For a whale fishery  
(by do.) - - - - -

National permits for a  
fishery, (Geo. James's)  
50,000 permits, at L6  
each, - - - - -

Original money paid in or due.

Highest prices sold for in 1720.

£. . d.

£. s. d.

4 0 0 per share

8 0 0 per share.

25 0 0 per share

250 0 0

— — —

70 0 0

1 0 0 per share

15 0 0

0 2 6 per share

1 10 0

2 10 0 per share

28 0 0

5 0 0 per share

20 0 0

0 10 0 per cent

3 10 0

5 0 0 per share

60 0 0

} Each permit:  
before any  
money paid  
down.

Salt to be made at Holyhead, (two millions),

For fettling the Bahama islands, (L6000 had actually been paid in on this project, in which many eminent persons were sufferers, as appeared by their petition to parliament, Feb. 1723-4, which was rejected, because it would have brought endless petitions of that sort, for redress of such grievances), - - - -

The grand fishery, (so named), - - - -

A bottomree company, - - - -

Westley's auctions, (i. e. actions), for buying and selling of stocks, -

General insurance from fire, L1,200,000 -

Royal-exchange assurance, L500,000, valued at L2,500,000 - - -

London assurance company, 36,000 shares, L12 10s each, valued at L3,600,000 once, -

| Original money paid in or due |    |    | Highest prices fold for in 1720. |     |           |
|-------------------------------|----|----|----------------------------------|-----|-----------|
| £.                            | s. | d. | £.                               | s.  | d.        |
| 5                             | 0  | 0  | per share                        | 15  | 0 9       |
| 3                             | 0  | 0  | per share                        | 40  | 0 0       |
| 0                             | 10 | 0  | per share                        | 5   | 0 0       |
| 1                             | 0  | 0  | per share                        | 3   | 0 0       |
| 7                             | 10 | 0  | per share                        | 100 | 0 0       |
| 0                             | 2  | 6  | per share                        | 8   | 0 0       |
| Sundry payments               |    |    | 250                              | 0 0 | per cent  |
| Ditto                         |    |    | 175                              | 0 0 | per share |

N. B.—Some of these foregoing bubbles, we may see, were fold at above six times the money paid in on them: others very near as high, and all shamefully and madly raised. It would be endless to hunt for the prices of many more, which were the mere embryos of a few days, though they drew in many unwary persons to their undoing. We shall therefor content ourselves with exhibiting a bare list of them in the following catalogue, viz.

## VI) Fisheries.

- 1, Cawood's North-sea fishery.
- 2, British fishery.
- 3, A royal fishery, for ten millions.
- 4, 5, Two more Greenland or whale fisheries.
- 6, A grand American fishery.
- 7, Garraway's or Pillan's fishery.
- 8, The free fishery.
- 9, A coral fishery.
- 10, Wrecks to be fished for on the Irish coast.
- 11, Another Greenland fishery.
- 12, Orkney fishery.

## VII) Salt.

- 1, Another salt project, besides one already mentioned.
- 2, Rock-salt project.
- 3, Saltpetre to be made.
- 4, Salt-pans in Holy island, two millions.

## VIII) Insurances.

- 1, Saddler's-hall insurance, afterward united to the royal-exchange ditto.
- 2, Insurance of horses and other cattle, two millions.
- 3, Insurance and improvement of children's fortunes.
- 4, Insurance of houses and goods in Ireland, with an English earl at the head of it.
- 5, Insurance against losses by servants.
- 6, Friendly society for insurances.
- 7, British insurance, so called.
- 8, Shales's insurance.
- 9, Insurance against theft and robbery.
- 10, Ditto for insuring seamen's wages.

## IX) For making fire-engines.

## X) Remittances of money.

- 1, General remittance and insurance of debts.
- 2, Stogdon's remittances.

## XI) Water companies.

- 1, An engine to bring fresh water into the town of Deal, in Kent.
- 2, A project to bring water by a new canal from St. Albans to London.
- 3, Another, from Rickmansworth to London.
- 4, To make saltwater fresh.

## XII) Sugar.

- 1, Refining of sugar.
- 2, Bleaching or whitening coarse sugar, without fire.

## XIII) For building hospitals for bastard children.

## XIV) America.

- 1, For settling the island of Santa Cruz in America.
- 2, — Ditto, for the islands of Blanco and Sal-Tortuga in Ditto.
- 3, Trade to the river Oronoko.
- 4, Ditto to Nova-Scotia, two millions.
- 5, Ditto to the Golden islands, Sir Robert Montgomery's.
- 6, Ditto for importing naval stores from Nova-Scotia and Virginia.
- 7, Ditto for walnut-tree from Virginia, two millions.
- 8, Ditto for hemp and flax from Pennsylvania.
- 9, Ditto for beaver fur, two millions.
- 10, Ditto for pitch and tar from America and Scotland.
- 11, Ditto for importing and exporting tobacco, four millions.

## XV) Buildings.

- 1, Building and rebuilding houses in England.
- 2, For purchasing grounds to build on in London.

## XVI) Lands.

- 1, For meliorating lands.
- 2, For improving lands in Great Britain, four millions subscribed.
- 3, Ditto in Flintshire, one million subscribed.
- 4, For improving the breed of horses, and the improvement of glebe and church lands, &c.
- 5, Planting madder.
- 6, Improving gardens.
- 7, For purchasing and improving lands.
- 8, Ditto for a royalty in Essex.
- 9, Ditto for fenny lands in Lincolnshire.
- 10, Ditto for improving tillage and cattle.
- 11, Another for the breed of horses.
- 12, Another for purchasing the forfeited estates, (Sir James Hallet's,) £1,200,000 subscribed.
- 13, For the corn trade.

## XVII) For erecting turnpikes and wharfs.

## XVIII) For dealing in hops.

## XIX) For building ships against pirates.

## XX) For buying naval and victualling stores, for the use of the royal navy.

## XXI) Oil-bubbles.

- 1, An oil-patent, with land security.
- 2, Rape-oil subscription.
- 3, Beech-oil, Aaron Hill's project.
- 4, For making oil from poppies.
- 5, Ditto from sun-flower seed.
- 6, Ditto from raddish feed.



- XXII) For the corn trade.
- XXIII) For drying malt with hot air.
- XXIV) For improving malt liquors, four millions
- XXV) For recovering seamen's wages.
- XXVI) For working tin plates, or whited iron plates \*.
- XXVII) Harbours and rivers.
  - 1, For repairing Morison's haven.
  - 2, For an engine to take up ballast.
  - 3, For making the river Dee, in Cheshire, navigable.
  - 4, Ditto for the river Douglas.
- XXVIII) For cleansing and paving London streets, two millions
- XXIX) Supplies for London, viz.
  - 1, For supplying London with sea-coal, three millions
  - 2, \_\_\_\_\_ with cattle.
  - 3, \_\_\_\_\_ with hay and straw.
  - 4, \_\_\_\_\_ paving its streets, two millions
- XXX) West's permits for buying and selling stocks.
- XXXI) Hemp, flax, and their manufactures, viz.
  - 1, For planting hemp and flax in Scotland and Ireland, and making sail-cloth, cordage, &c.
  - 2, and 3, Two other different sail-cloth subscriptions.
  - 4, For the Holland and sail-cloth manufactures.
  - 5, For the cambric and lawn manufactures.
  - 6, Sail-cloth in Ireland.
- XXXII) For the silk and cotton manufactures, viz.
  - 1, For raising silk-worms.
  - 2, Another for planting mulberry trees, and breeding silk-worms in Chelsea park, by Sir Richard Manningham, where 2000 of those trees were actually planted, and many large expensive edifices were erected; the remains whereof are scarcely now to be seen.
  - 3, For making muslin.
  - 4, For improving the cotton, and the silk and cotton, manufactures.
  - 5, Another for improving the silk manufacture.
- XXXIII) Metals, mines, and minerals, viz.
  - 1, For making iron and steel in Great Britain, four millions.
  - 2, For improving English iron and steel.
  - 3, For extracting silver from lead.
  - 4, For improving the tin mines of Cornwall and Devonshire.
  - 5, For transmuting quick-silver into a malleable and fine metal.
  - 6, For smelting lead.

\* This manufacture, which we formerly had entirely from Germany, has since the year 1720 been brought to great perfection in Monmouthshire and elsewhere in England, the English tin-plates being now more durable and beautiful than any foreign ones. A.

- 7, For milling lead.
- 8, For improving Mr. Wood's iron works and manufactures.
- 9, For improving the lead mines in Gloucestershire.
- 10, For importing Swedish iron.
- 11, For improving English copper and brass.
- 12, For improving the Derbyshire mines.
- 13, Ditto for the Jamaica mines.
- 14, For improving the British alum works.
- 15, For making iron with pit-coal.
- XXXIV) For making china-ware and delft-ware.
- ✓ XXXV) For importing a number of large jack-asses from Spain, in order to propagate a larger kind of mules in England, for which purpose marsh lands were treating for near Woolwich. A clergyman, long since dead, was at the head of this bubble.
- ✓ XXXVI) For trading in human hair.
- XXXVII) Ditto in Flanders' lace.
- ✓ XXXVIII) For fattening hogs.
- XXXIX) For preparing tobacco for making snuff.
- XL) For purchasing, or recovering, estates illegally detained.
- XL1) For a more inoffensive method of emptying or cleansing necessary houses.
- XLII) For better curing the venereal disease.
- ✓ XLIII) A subscription advertised, and actually opened, for an undertaking, which shall in due time be revealed.
- XLIV) For importing timber from Germany.
- XLV) Ditto from Norway.
- XLVI) For a trade to his majesty's German dominions.
- XLVII) For the exportation of our woollen manufacture, and the importation of copper, brass, and iron.
- XLVIII) For the more effectual making of Colchester bays.
- XLIX) For employing the poor. (Lawr. Braddon)
  - L) For employing poor artificers, and furnishing merchants with money.
  - LI) For lending money to merchants to pay their duties; for purchasing government securities; for granting annuities for lives; and for building ships to let to freight.
  - LII) For lending money on stocks, annuities, &c.
  - LIII) Another ditto for lending money at interest.
  - LIV) Another ditto for the encouragement of the industrious.
  - LV) For making glass bottles.
  - LVI) For making coach glasses and looking glasses, two millions.
  - LVII) For making pitch, tar, turpentine, &c.
  - LVIII) For making pantiles.

- LIX) For making soap.
- LX) For making Joppa and Castile soap.
- LXI) For making Manchester stuffs, cottons, and tapes.
- ✓ LXII) For a grand dispensary, three millions.
- LXIII) For a wheel for a perpetual motion.
- LXIV) For loading and entering goods at the custom-house.
- LXV) For trading in, and improving, certain commodities of this kingdom, three millions.
- LXVI) For a trade to Barbary. (Jezreel Jones's)
- LXVII) For making pasteboard and packing-paper.
- LXVIII) Another for the paper manufacture.
- LXIX) For making starch.
- LXX) For building and rebuilding houses throughout England, three millions.
- LXXI) For furnishing funerals.
- LXXII) Another for buying and selling lands, and lending money at interest, five millions.
- LXXIII) Loan offices for encouraging the industrious.
- LXXIV) For the clothing, felt, and pantile, trades.
- LXXV) Insuring, and increasing, children's fortunes.
- LXXVI) For importing oils and other materials for the woollen manufactures.
- LXXVII) For paying pensions to widows, &c. at a small discount, two millions.
- LXXVIII) For employing poor artificers, furnishing merchants, &c. with watches.
- LXXIX) For insuring masters from the losses sustained by servants, three millions.
- LXXX) Timber from Wales.

Although this be the largest collection of the bubbles of this year, yet I am persuaded there are some omitted, which I have not been able to recollect: some may possibly think this collection of them too prolix; yet I apprehend, that to many readers they may be a curiosity, and to posterity an useful *memento*: and it is even possible, that out of so many as considerably above 200 such abortive ones, some improving genius may hereafter luckily render some of them practicable and useful; as has been the case already with respect to the tinned-plate manufacture, &c. yet of all the above numerous projects, only four, properly speaking, exist at present, viz. the two assurance companies, by legal new charters, the York-buildings company, (if it may be said still to exist) and the English copper company, its charter being found legal.

Many of the above bubbles were indeed so nonsensical and absurd, appearing even from their very titles, as it might be imagined could only draw in the most ignorant part of the people; yet even those had a very

considerable run, much money being got and lost by them: and as for the great bulk of them, there were almost incredible numbers of transactions in them daily and hourly, for ready money, and mostly at very advanced prices; as may partly be conceived by those whose highest prices we have set down. Moreover, great numbers of contracts were made for taking many of them at a future time; and also for puts and refusals of them, at very high prices; more especially in the York-buildings company; in the temple mills, brass manufacture; in the two copper companies, &c. in the books of one of which, viz. the Welch copper company or bubble, long since come to nothing, I have seen some hundreds of contracts registered, according to act of parliament, at very extravagant prices. And it is much to be lamented, that persons of high rank and dignity placed themselves at the head of many of those even illegal projects: so great was the infatuation of this time.

The fatal writs of *scire facias* at length were issued, on the 18th of August, against the following pretended companies, viz. the York-buildings company, lustring company, the English copper and Welch copper companies, expressly by name, and in general against all other projects promulgated contrary to law; and the crown lawyers were directed to prosecute all such as had opened books of subscriptions, and all who subscribed to them, or who made or accepted any transfer in them.

It was apprehended by many thinking people, that the general infatuation might last till winter, when, it was imagined, it would insensibly subside of itself. But the earnestness of the South-sea junto to obtain the *scire facias* brought it sooner to an issue, though very differently from what they assuredly expected. The publication of it by authority, in the London gazette, instantly struck so general a panic amongst the conductors of all the undertakings, projects, or bubbles, that the suddenness as well as greatness of their fall was amazing. York-buildings stock, for instance, fell at once from 300 to 200; and in two days after, neither it nor the other three undertakings, expressly named in the *scire facias*, had buyers at any price whatever. The more bare-faced bubbles of all kinds immediately shrunk to their original nothing: their projectors shut up their offices, and suddenly disappeared; and Exchange-alley with its coffee-houses were no longer crowded with adventurers, many of whom having laid out their substance in those airy purchases, now found themselves utterly undone; while, on the other hand, such as had dealt in them to great advantage, became extremely shy of owning their gains. This state of things, however calamitous it might appear, was but the prelude to the grand calamity which soon ensued by the fall of South-sea stock and subscriptions. For when the *scire facias* came abroad, that stock was at 850 per cent for the opening of the books in August, including the midsummer dividend; but, from that time forward, it gradually declined in price, though with many

great fluctuations, occasioned by the various arts and endeavours of the junto to keep it up; some of the particulars whereof have, in part, been mentioned already. At the opening of their books, on the 22d of August, the stock was at 820 per cent; and two days after, the directors opened a fourth money subscription for the purchase of L1,250,000 stock at 1000 per cent, whereof 200 or (20 per cent) was paid down; the remainder to be in four equal half-yearly payments of L200 each, though afterward altered to eight different payments of L100 each. This subscription was also much crowded, and was completed in three hours time, and sold that same evening at 40 per cent advance, but this advance was not lasting; for though the managers now lent out large sums of money, for six months, on their stock, valuing it only at 400 per cent, and at so moderate an interest as 4 per cent, yet the stock could not be kept up to 800. Moreover, the last subscribers of the public debts, both irredeemable and redeemable, began to murmur on account of the high prices at which they had subscribed into the stock; and also because their stock was not as yet brought into their names, but artfully postponed from time to time. Numbers also, who had contracted for stock for the opening of the books, at much higher prices than the stock now sold at, joined in those complaints, of whom not a few were persons of high rank and quality: all which was not a little heightened by the numerous sufferers by the lesser stocks and bubbles. The court of directors now saw their mistake, but too late, in procuring the *scire facias*, but instead of healing and moderate measures, they, on the 30th of August, in order to raise the expectations of men to the highest pitch, declared, that 30 per cent in money should be the dividend for the half year which would be due at christmas following; and, to fill up the measure of their extravagance, that, for the next succeeding twelve years, not less than 50 per cent in money should be the annual dividend on their stock. However romantic this last declaration may at present seem, it was but barely corresponding with the price of their two last money subscriptions. Had all the remaining public debts been taken in at the price of the last subscription, and had the four sets of money subscribers duely made good all their payments, and, moreover, had the company been able to sell all their remaining stock at 1000 per cent, or higher, and their loans of money had all been duely repaid, upon these suppositions, the company might possibly have been able to have made so vast a dividend, for at least part of the twelve years; but that would have been attended with the certain and grievous future loss in their principal as well as interest. However, even this pompous declaration was able only for two days, viz. till the 1st of September, to raise the stock from 780, to 810, from which last day it gradually sunk to the 8th of that month, when it was at 680: whereby it plainly appeared, that none believed the dividends could prudently and rationally take place. Yet, on the 8th of

September, a general court, crowded with persons of distinction, gave thanks to the court of directors for their prudent and skilful management; and even fulsome commendations were added by some members of both houses of parliament. Those panegyrist then told the directors, 'that they had laid asleep all our domestic animosities, and had reconciled all parties in one common interest, (i. e. money-getting) that they had increased the fortunes of the monied men, whilst they had been the means of doubling the value of land-estates.' It was indeed true, that for a few months, such as had sold out at high prices, eagerly coveting to purchase land with the money, occasioned lands to be sold at 35 to 40 years purchase; and some for somewhat more, as happened at Paris the year before; which might have been warning sufficient to our schemers. Yet, in the space of a few weeks after, those very persons were for hanging up all the court of directors. On the 20th of September the stock was fallen to 410, when a general court agreed to reduce the term of the last subscribers of the public debts to the price of 400 per cent, as also of the 3d and 4th money-subscriptions from 1000 to 400 per cent. It was also hinted that the bank had agreed, or would agree, to take a quantity of their stock at 400 per cent, in payment for £3,775,000 redeemable debt, for which the South-sea company was to pay off the bank. This was afterwards called the bank contract, the very firmise of which had run up South-sea stock on the 12th of that month to 675, which, however, fell the next day to 550. It was afterward denied to have ever been executed as a legal contract; but had only been discoursed of between some ministers of state and the two companies: but though it never took place, it certainly drew in many new purchasers of stock, to their great loss; and, for that reason, occasioned much noise and scribbling, though long since buried in oblivion. The frailty of the whole South-sea scheme now hereby also plainly appearing to all, the stock, on the 29th of September, had fallen to 175 per cent; and their bonds were at 25 per cent discount; whereupon there appeared great uneasiness and clamour among the monied men, which produced a great demand for cash at the bank, and a greater one on the private bankers, who had generally lent out much of their cash on South-sea stock and subscriptions, whereby several very substantial ones were obliged to stop payment for some time. And now, just when drowning, all people began seriously to reflect on the calamities brought on France, but a few months sooner, by the famous Mississippi stock or bubble; and to draw a melancholy parallel; which reflections, made a few months sooner, would have saved many a worthy family from distress: great clamour was also raised on account of contracts at high prices, for the 3d and 4th money subscriptions performable on delivery of the company's receipts, though no receipts had ever been issued for them. At a general court, on the 30th of September, the supposed contract with the bank was again mentioned as a positive agreement, at 400 per cent for South-sea stock, which now, therefor,



from 130 rose to 320, but could by no methods be kept so high: the fascination was over, and therefor it fell daily, more especially when it was known after all, that the bank contract was no reality, but a mere temporary, and very unjust, expedient to quiet the clamours of the people.

At this general court, also, the redeemable debts, before taken in at 105 for 100, were now reduced to 100; and, instead of the former allowance of stock at 800 per cent, they were now allowed stock at 400 per cent, with the midsummer dividend of 10 per cent in stock.

The second subscription of irredeemables was made equal to the first; and the third and fourth money subscriptions were reduced to 400 per cent in stock: and the 10 per cent in stock was allowed to them all.

It was then thought very hard on the bank (if ever really intended) to be forced into a bargain so disadvantageous, merely for helping their rivals out of the mire. And now, towards the close of this year of marvels, were seen the great losses of many families of rank, and some of great quality, and the utter ruin of merchants before of great figure, and also of certain eminent physicians, clergymen, and lawyers, as well as of many eminent tradesmen: some of whom, after so long living in splendour, were not able to stand the shock of poverty and contempt, and died of mere heart-break; others withdrew to remote parts of the world, and never returned.

Many expedients were at this time started, for the relief of the sufferers by South-sea stock; among others, an ingraftment of 18 millions of that stock into the other two great companies, 9 millions into the bank, and 9 millions into the East-India stock; which occasioned warm debates in the general courts of those two companies, who at length agreed to it. Yet, though an act of parliament, of the 7th of King George, confirmed it, it was never carried into execution. The South-sea company also, in their distress, petitioned the king for a grant of that part of the island of St. Christophers, in the West-Indies, which France had yielded to us by the treaty of Utrecht; as also of the country of Nova-Scotia, which, they alleged, would be very much to the advantage of their trade, and to the king's revenue: but, though they did not succeed therein, they proved successful in their applications to have a remission by the legislature of the entire sum they were bound to pay for taking in the national debts: whereby the public was deprived of all the benefit hoped for from that scheme, except reducing the irredeemable debts into a state of redemption. This remission however was thereby granted; with a proviso, that from midsummer 1722 two millions of the company's capital stock should be annihilated, for the benefit of the public. Yet, by the act of the 9th of that king, which divided their capital into two equal moieties, the said two millions capital stock was again restored to the company from the term of midsummer 1722.

We must again return back to the French stock-jobbing or bubble affairs of this year 1720. In February, an arret came out for uniting their bank to their India company, (now established in perpetuity) as we have already seen the later united to the Mississippi company, and the appellation of Mississippi sunk in the more general name of the India company. The arret sets forth, 'that, as this bank is royal, the king is bound to make good the full value of its notes or bills; and that, as there is a great connection between the operations of this bank and those of the India company, he commits to the later the government and profits of the bank during their term of fifty years. Hereby also the king sells to the company the fifty millions of India stock, belonging to him, for nine hundred millions:' (i. e. 1800 per cent.) 'The king also hereby declares,' (though it was soon after seen how far such declarations were to be relied on,) 'that he will never draw on the bank till they have the value first brought in to them by his receivers-general, &c. Nor shall the company be obliged to advance any money hereafter for his service on any pretence whatever, farther than what their cashier shall previously have of his majesty's in his custody.'

This junction of the bank to the India company hastened the downfall of both. It was said, that this bank had already issued notes to the amount of one thousand millions\*, which was more paper than all the banks in Europe are able to circulate: for that of Amsterdam is rather a deposit of credit than a proper circulating bank. And, to make this bank the more reputable, the receivers of the king's revenue were directed to take bank-notes of their sub-receivers: and it was farther ordered, that all payments of one hundred livres and upwards should be made in bank-notes; so that, for a short space, they began to have great credit, whereby they fell into discounting merchants bills, and lending money on jewels, plate, &c. and also on mortgages. All these, however, proved too little, under so despotic a government. For, though by such methods, and by altering the nominal value of the coin, &c. they thought to support public credit, yet its bottom being rotten, those compulsive means were highly improper for establishing credit, which ever must be as free as common air, and plainly argued the want of solid security. For, as nothing but the inviolable security and freedom of property can ever create a confidence in people for establishing a permanent paper credit; who could possibly, for any long space, confide in a bank which had only the bare parole d'honneur of a monarch, who, at his pleasure, can, and frequently does, alter the value of private property, and who may at once lay his iron hands on the whole cash of the bank? Louis XIV had tried every means, but the only true one, which human art could devise for creating a real public

\* About forty millions sterling, as the exchange then was. A.

credit in France, from observing what immense advantage it had been of to England in the wars of King William and Queen Anne, whereby we were become the wonder and envy of the rest of Europe, yet he could never effect it; because, agreeable to his nature and to his arbitrary government, he falsified the most solemn of his own edicts whenever his necessities pinched him! By another edict of the same month, the king enjoins, that no person keep in his house or possession above five hundred livres in current coin, under the penalty of ten thousand livres. All which violent methods are declared in those arrets or edicts, to be, 'for the good of his subjects, to make provisions cheap, to support public credit, to facilitate circulation, and to increase commerce and manufactures!'

In March came out a most extraordinary arret of the council of state, for fixing the price of the actions (or shares) of the India company at 9000 livres each! many arrets in these times appeared for altering the nominal value of the gold and silver coins of France, sometimes to an higher, and at other times to a lower value, which tended to no other end but getting rid of the public debts, and filling the king's coffers, without any regard to the immense losses which such proceedings brought on his impoverished subjects.

Yet the India (or Mississippi) stock still continued to advance in price by entire hundreds per cent, even in one day's time: and whilst that stock continued rising, great were the encomiums bestowed on the duke-regent; and his tool, Mr. Law, was deemed an infallible oracle!—Whose scheme of satisfying the public creditors, by giving them the general farm of the revenues, was by his agents said to resemble the bank of St. George at Genoa; and, like it, would be the staff and stay of the state! When the said India stock was got to the price of 2,050 per cent, it produced, for a few months, the following strange paradoxical effects in France, viz.

The state-bills, which before had been at 63 per cent discount, got up to 20 per cent above par.—The king got rid of 1,500 millions of public debts, in a few weeks, without paying any money!—And, by remitting certain burthensome taxes on the people, the royal revenue had been increased some millions!

The king now absolutely prohibited all the ecclesiastical communities and hospitals of France from putting out their money at interest anywhere but in India stock. Notwithstanding all these, and many other extraordinary measures, the immenseness of its capital at length could not fail to bring down its price: for the prevention whereof, sundry means were tried, such as giving the company the sole property of the island named Belleisle on the south-west coast of Bretagne, and afterwards the trade to the isle of Hispaniola, &c.

The stock of the India company still fluctuating, Mr. Law caused sundry pamphlets to be published, for illustrating its vast benefits to the proprietors of it; and the impossibility of the king's ever doing it any prejudice. What followed so very soon after puts one in mind of Ben Jonson's comedy of Bartholomew fair, where, for promoting the trade of cut-purses, the chief of their gang gets on a stool, and sings a ballad against cut-purses.

For, on the 21st of May the king's fatal arret comes out, whereby, under pretence of his having reduced the value of his coin, it was declared necessary to reduce the nominal value of his bank-notes and the India stock, viz. the former to one half, and the later from 9,000 livres per action to 5,000 livres. It is easy to conceive the calamity, which this reduction produced throughout France! The bank-notes instantly lost their currency. Mr. Hutcheson, an author of credit, observes, that the French crown in bank-money, which, in September 1719, was worth 30*d* sterling in exchange to London, was now worth about 3*d* payable in French bank-bills! To prevent tumults, the guards were placed everywhere. The parliament remonstrated to the king the fatal consequences thereof; which occasioned the following arret, viz. 'the king being informed, that his reduction of bank-bills has had an effect quite contrary to his intentions, and has produced a general confusion in commerce: and being desirous to favour the circulation of the said bank-bills, for the conveniency of such as give or take them in payment: and, having heard the report of the Sieur Law, he has ordained, that bank-bills be current on the same footing as before the above arret, which he hereby revokes.'

On the 29th of May, however, Mr. Law found it prudent to resign his office of comptroller-general of the finances, by the interposition of the parliament of Paris with the duke of Orleans; whereupon it was thought needful to allow him two Switz officers as his guard; and commissaries were appointed to inspect his accounts. Sundry other means were now used to keep up the tottering tumbling public credit. And, as many of the state-creditors had lately been paid off with bank-notes, which were now become troublesome to circulate, by reason of their vast quantity, these were now taken in by a new subscription of 1,000 millions on the town-house of Paris, at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, or 25 millions of annuities.

And, for lessening the number of actions in the India company, the king gave up 100 millions which belonged to him, and the company also sunk 300 millions which they held in their corporate capacity. But, on the other hand, in order to make a dividend to the proprietors of 3 per cent on the nominal value of 12,000 livres per share, they made a sort of call of 3,000 livres per share, payable in six months. Sundry other flight-of-hand tricks were now put in practice, to hoodwink the people, and, if possible, to retrieve their good opinion of India stock,

upon which a new company of insurance was now ingrafted for that end : and every three or four days arrets came out, contradicting, repealing, or altering, the preceding ones ; so that no fewer than ten such came out during the month of June this year ; the substance whereof, and of the proceedings of France for three years past, relating to their India or Mississippi trade and company, and their royal-bank, we find principally in a large collection of arrets, memorials, &c. published at Paris, in 1720, by authority, in two quarto volumes, which we have abridged as much as possible ; whereby a general knowlege may in part be gathered of that madness in France, which had in this year infected all the other monied countries of Europe !

The cruel reduction of the value of French bank-notes, the reductions of their India stock, and the consequent general confusion,—the numberless alterations, within the space of a few months, in the nominal value of the coins of France : all these obliged wise and provident persons to send their effects into other countries, lest they should be gradually reduced to nothing ! For preventing thereof an ordinance came out on the 20th of June, whereby the king enjoined all his subjects to bring back their effects, upon pain of forfeiting double the value ; and, on like forfeiture, strictly enjoined them not to invest their money in the stocks of foreign companies ! Than which ordinance nothing surely could more effectually alarm the people.

Merchants and others now refusing to take their bank-notes in payment, an arret came out, prohibiting any person whatever from refusing them, under forfeiture of double the value ! Yet, on that same day, the run or demand on the bank was so great, that another ordinance of the king came out, importing, ‘ that he being informed of the tumult at the bank upon account of paying their notes, he has thought fit to suspend the payment of the said notes till farther orders \* : strictly forbidding all persons whatever to meet or assemble together on any pretence whatever.’ And guards were placed, on this lamentable occasion, at sundry public places in Paris, where merchants and others concerned in India stock, bank-notes, and bills of exchange, used to assemble in great numbers, whereby they were dispersed.

In July many arrets came abroad, for raising the fallen credit of India stock, though to no purpose. And, on the 30th, an arret appears for again raising the nominal value of the French coins, and, for lessening the number of bank-notes, 600 millions thereof were now turned into India stock, at 9,000 livres per share. And although this was but an airy manner of payment, it was however esteemed better than bank-notes, which had no currency at all. Other great sums in bank-notes were erected into annuities at 2 per cent per annum, and into life-annuities at 5 per cent.

\* There was not cash in the bank to pay the fiftieth part of them. A.



On the 1st of September the duke-regent of France published a general state of the public debts of France at the death of King Louis XIV, amounting to upwards of 1,977 millions of livres; and their interest to very near 90 millions per annum: instead of which great sum (near 100 millions sterling), the king (says this statement) now owes scarcely 340 millions.

*N. B.* Of the first vast debt the India company had paid off 600 millions by discharging so many bank-notes, which the king must have otherwise paid, or sunk: and that bank was thereby entirely at an end and shut up. The rest, by different chicaneries between the regent and Law, were wiped off.

That general state farther acquaints the public, “that since the duke of Orleans’s accession to the regency, the royal finances have been augmented above 83 millions of livres per annum. And yet,” (believe it who can), “the people have within that time been eased of taxes or imposts to the amount of upwards of 52 millions per annum!” Be this as it may, he certainly got rid of so much national debt, to the ruin of thousands of families, by the ways before mentioned. We shall only add, concerning the vast French India capital stock, that it gradually dwindled in value till it settled in their present East-India company; which, by dint of application, &c. has since made so great a figure, as well in India as in Europe, so as greatly to interfere with the interests of the other European nations trading to the East-Indies! And that the regent’s chief instrument, Law, being now obliged to leave France, died in obscurity, without having acquired any thing very considerable for himself; though he had it once in his power to have been the richest subject in Christendom!

We return now farther to consider the unfortunate situation of the proprietors of the British national debt, subscribed into the South-sea company in the year 1720, and of the purchasers of South-sea stock by money-subscriptions at high prices. Toward the close of that year, these began clearly to perceive the sad state they were reduced to by their own credulity, as well as by other causes already noted; and that all the schemes proposed for raising the stock to its former high price were perfectly visionary. Their main resource now was, by the assistance of the legislature, to obtain an equal or fair distribution among them, of the undivided South-sea stock, as far as that would go: yet even that was attended with sundry difficulties, needless to be enlarged on at this distance of time. The redeemable creditors who had subscribed, and also the money subscribers, were indeed in a sad way. Nevertheless, to enlarge on all the reasonings of those, as also on those of the long-annuity proprietors, would require more room than is consistent with our general scope; as the pieces published on that occasion, which we have bound up, consist of sundry considerable volumes of several sizes. We



shall therefor content ourselves with first exhibiting a brief state of the whole South-sea capital stock, as it stood at Christmas 1720, viz.

|  |              |   |    |
|--|--------------|---|----|
| The old capital stock before midsummer 1720    | L11,746,844  | 8 | 10 |
| The stock of the irredeemable debts subscribed | 12,069,349   | 2 | 6  |
| The stock of the redeemable debts subscribed   | - 13,986,690 | 2 | 8  |

Total South-sea stock at christmas 1720, (in which however a small mistake of L400 was afterward found, whereby its true amount was L37,802,483:14) - - L37,802,883 14 0

And next, we shall, as briefly as possible, set down the quantity of stock allowed at different times, to the several species of new proprietors of South-sea stock, in consequence of the very badly executed scheme we are now treating of, viz.

I) To the redeemable proprietors, stock was at first allowed at 800 per cent, but afterward reduced to 400: so that L100 redeemable debt had in South-sea stock L25. to which add the midsummer 10 per cent, is - - - - - L27 10 10

2. The first additional third, by act of parliament, 31st July 1721 - - - - - 9 3 4

3. The second additional third, by general court, September 1st, 1721 - - - - - 12 4 5

L48 17 9

4. The addition of a sixteenth part, by general court, 12th April, 1723 - - - - - 3 1 1

Total South-sea stock allowed for L100 redeemables subscribed. - - - - - L51 18 10

II) The four money-subscriptions, though at first at different prices, had at length stock allowed them at 400 per cent, and had afterwards the very same several additions as the redeemable debts; so that for every L100 they had paid down they were in all allowed L51 18 10

Whereby it will appear, that these two descriptions of proprietors had much harder terms than any of the others.

III) The irredeemable debts subscribed were, in all, allowed viz.

Long annuities in the first subscription had for every L100 per annum, L700 South-sea stock, and with the 10 per cent dividend in stock for midsummer 1720, made L770; and with two of the three addi-

tions made to the redeemables, as before exhibited, viz. the second additional one third, and the additional one sixteenth, made their stock amount to - - - - - L1,090 16 8

And they had, at subscribing, in bonds and money - 575 0 0

Total stock and money in the first subscription - L1,665 16 8

In the second subscription of those same long annuities they were at first allowed stock at 800 per cent, which was afterward reduced to 400 per cent, and, with the midsummer 10 per cent, amounted to - - - - - L880 0 0

And the legislature having directed this second subscription to be made equal to the first subscription, valuing the stock at 150 per cent, that addition in stock amounted to - - - - - 203 6 8

L1,083 6 8

And the two above additions, as made to the first subscription, in stock, amounted to - - - - - 451 7 8

Total stock allowed for L100 per annum in the second subscription ; but no bonds nor money were given on this second subscription -

L1,543 14 4

The L98 per annum annuities, called fourteen per cents, had in the first subscription L700 stock allowed them, which, with all the before-mentioned additions, amounted to - - - - - L1,090 16 8

And in bonds and money - - - - - 511 0 0

Total stock and money for L98 per annum, first subscription, - - - - -

L1,601 16 8

And their second subscription in stock, with the same additions, but no bonds nor money - - - - - L1,474 5 6

The first subscription of the nine per cents had, in all, for every L90 per annum in stock - - - - - L545 8 4

And in bonds and money - - - - - 217 10 0

Total for L90 per annum, in the first subscription

L762 18 4

And their second subscription had L699 : 7 : 2 stock, and L2, called odd money, in money.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |      |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|---|
| For the prize-tickets of lottery 1710, L100 per annum, first subscrip-<br>tion, had in all in South-sea stock | - | - | - | - | - | L623 | 6 | 8 |
| And in bonds and money  | - | - | - | - | - | 200  | 0 | 0 |

|                                 |   |   |   |   |   |      |   |   |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|---|
| Total in the first subscription | - | - | - | - | - | L823 | 6 | 8 |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|---|

And their second subscription had in all L755 : 11 stock only.

|  |   |   |   |   |   |      |    |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|------|----|---|
| The blank tickets of lottery 1710 had for every L98 per<br>annum | - | - | - | - | - | L545 | 8  | 4 |
| And in bonds and money   | - | - | - | - | - | 353  | 10 | 0 |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |      |    |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|----|---|
| Total stock and money in the first subscription | - | - | - | - | - | L898 | 18 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|----|---|

|                                   |      |    |   |            |
|-----------------------------------|------|----|---|------------|
| And their second subscription had | L827 | 16 | 0 | in stock.. |
|-----------------------------------|------|----|---|------------|

|                  |   |   |   |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| And in odd money | - | - | 2 | 0 | 0 |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|

|                           |   |   |   |   |   |      |    |   |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|------|----|---|
| Total second subscription | - | - | - | - | - | L829 | 16 | 0 |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|------|----|---|

Thus it plainly appeared, that all the irredeemable debts subscribed were put upon a much better footing than the redeemable ones, and the money subscribers, who certainly were very hardly used.

IV) The old capital stock before midsummer 1720 had, beyond all other species of proprietors, the very best terms granted to them, viz. the 10 per cent dividend for midsummer 1720 : likewise the additional third, (or L33 : 6 : 8 per cent) to the stock, by the general court on 1st September 1721 : also the additional one sixteenth part, (or L6 : 5 per cent) on the 12th April 1723 : whereby L100 of the old South-sea proprietors stock was increased, at midsummer 1723, to L155 : 16 : 8.

And thus at length men were forced to sit down (though not contented) with their respective losses ; though a secret committee of the house of commons in the beginning of this year made several large reports against the conduct of the directors, and indirectly against others in very high stations, some of whom were expressly included in the laws made for mulcting those directors, and for sequestrating their estates, and those of some of their principal servants ; more especially their treasurer, in whose breast many important secrets were by the crowd supposed to be lodged, particularly against a noble lord then in power, who nevertheless was well known to be hitherto no way inclined to avarice. Men's losses indeed, and the writings of the party scribblers, occasioned many people at that time to believe, that the scheme itself contained secrets of very great importance ! Bribery, corruption, and robbing of the public, were fashionable words at this time, and helped

to fill up pamphlets and newspapers : and many of those, who had very lately most obsequiously courted and shamefully flattered the unhappy directors, were now the loudest for the most severe punishments. It is however but too true, that the directors, or rather the junto of managers, for making their scheme go more easily down, made considerable largesses, at the company's cost, to many persons of influence ; and that in the execution of their whole scheme they had much too great a latitude allowed them. That the fictitious sale of stock, prior to passing the act of parliament ; their lending out above eleven millions of the company's money on stock and subscriptions, without an adequate security ; their taking so enormous a leap as from 400 to 1,000 per cent in the price of their stock for the third and fourth money-subscriptions ; their making private additions to the money-subscriptions, for the benefit of friends ; and the suffering such friends to withdraw those subscriptions on the fall of stock ; their giving away large sums of the company's money for the future refusal of stock at high prices, in order to raise it to those prices ; their laying out great sums of the company's money, for buying up stock for the same end ; their making many alterations, additions, and erasements, in sums and names on the said loans, &c. were all utterly unjustifiable ! Yet, with respect to the bulk of the ministry and parliament, there is some reason to think, that their listening to the proposals of the South-sea directors proceeded purely from a desire of acquiring reputation by getting rid of part of our national burdens ; though (as already observed) neither that nor any other scheme, inconsistent with the strictest national faith, ought to be countenanced. This was, we apprehend, the real state of that whole affair, notwithstanding the idle clamours of many who pretended to find out miraculously occult mysteries therein. Avarice had at that time deeply infected persons of all ranks, whereby they contributed not a little to favour the South-sea managers, and to forward their own subsequent losses. Several of the directors themselves were so far innocent as to be found poorer at the breaking up of the scheme than when it began ; and many of them had the best of characters till that infatuation : and the inventory of all their estates (exclusive of antecedent settlements) did not much exceed a million of money ; which among so many persons was little more than £30,000 each, on an average.

Many foreigners, then in our funds, were considerable losers by the South-sea scheme, whereby a balance (though not a very reputable one) was said to be in our favour, nationally speaking. The laudable canton of Berne is however said to have been a very considerable gainer, in their public capacity, by this scheme. The amount of all the value of the contracts registered at the South-sea house, pursuant to act of parliament, was £9,917,862. On which there was £2,000,000 and upwards

paid down, and the balance remaining due thereon was £7,884,137, besides the many contracts never registered; and the many others made on account of the lesser stocks and bubbles, whose nominal amount was then guessed by observing people, when at their highest prices, to exceed 300 millions. And supposing all the increased South-sea capital of £37,802,883:14 to have been negotiated at 1,000 per cent, the amount would have been 380 millions more. If, moreover, all the entire bank and East-India capitals had been negotiated at their then advanced prices, that would have amounted to 28½ millions more. The whole amounts to above 700 millions. Yet, as this last supposition is scarcely to be admitted, we shall rather stick to our former supposition of 500 millions being nearer to the nominal value of them all.

The unaccountable frenzy in stocks and projects of the year may by some be thought to have taken up too much room in this work: but we are persuaded that others will approve of perpetuating, in such a work, the remembrance of them, as a warning to after-ages!

We shall sum up all relating to the deceitful arts of raising South-sea stock by new and extravagant high subscriptions, by a sensible, familiar, and most plain, simile, written at this time by that ingenious gentleman, Archibald Hutcheson, esquire, (long since dead) whose fair and candid calculations on this subject, and on our general national debts, make up a moderate folio volume, viz.

‘ A having a £100 stock in trade, though pretty much in debt, gives it out to be worth £300, on account of many privileges and advantages to which he is intitled. B, relying on A’s great wisdom and integrity, sues to be admitted partner on those terms, and accordingly brings £300 into the partnership. The trade being afterwards given out or discovered to be very improving, C comes in at £500; and afterwards D, at £1100. And the capital is then completed to £2000. If the partnership had gone no farther than A and B, then A had got, and B had lost, £100. If it had stopped at C, then A had got, and C had lost, £200; and B had been as he was before: but D also coming in, A gains £400 and B £200; and C neither gains nor loses: but D loses £600. Indeed, if A could shew that the said capital was intrinsically worth £4400, there would be no harm done to D; and B and C would have been obliged to him. But if the capital at first was worth but £100, and increased only by the subsequent partnerships, it must then be acknowledged, that B and C have been imposed on in their turns, and that unfortunate thoughtless D paid the piper.’

This simile is too obvious to need explanation: A plainly representing the original South-sea capital, as B and C do the first and second subscriptions for stock, and D the third and fourth subscriptions. This

came not out till the close of the year 1720, when every one too late saw the general deception: but we remember many who were then of opinion, that, had it been published before the two shameful subscriptions at each L1000 per cent had been resolved on, it might have prevented so wild a measure.

The infection of new projects communicated itself in that same year of wonders into the cool and phlegmatic country of Holland, where sundry new subscriptions for insurances of ships, merchandize, &c. were set on foot, not only in their greater cities, but even in some inconsiderable ones. Those idle subscriptions, however, were not carried to any great and prejudicial height amongst so wary a people, who soon returned to their proper vocations.

We had in that same year a seemingly-judicious view of the iron manufacture of England, from a state of it published by Mr. William Wood \*, who was then a great iron-proprietor. He observes very justly, ' that the iron manufacture is, next to the woollen manufacture, the most considerable of all others in this nation. That we then used about 30,000 tons of iron per annum: of which (for want of a sufficient supply of cord-wood) we are forced to buy of our neighbours about 20,000 tons, with ready money; which, at L10 per ton, is L200,000 per annum. That we have iron-stone enough, and may be able to supply ourselves with cord-wood to make the greatest part of, if not all, the iron we want, by planting and raising copices on waste and other lands of small value, and reserving a certain quantity of acres to grow for timber-trees.' Yet, as all this was said with a view to introduce the account of his iron-partnership, amongst the projects or bubbles of that year, it must be read with caution. Mr. Wood had then a lease of all the mines on the crown-lands of thirty-nine counties, whose furnaces were well supplied with pit-coal; some of the best iron-works in the kingdom; several forges for refining and drawing iron out into bars; also a slitting-mill for rolling, slitting, and preparing, the iron for its several uses in manufacture; furnaces for making pig-iron, pots, rails, and banisters, backs and hearths for chimnies, and all other sorts of cast-iron, both with charcoal and pit-coal.

It being found by experience, that silver plate, made according to the old standard of eleven ounces and two penny-weight of fine silver, (which was altered to eleven ounces ten penny-weight, by the act 8 *Gul.* III. c. 7) is more serviceable and durable than that made by the later standard, the old sterling standard of eleven ounces two penny-weight of fine silver in a pound weight (troy) was restored by act of parliament.

\* This is the same Wood, who afterwards undertook the coinage of copper halfpence for Ireland. *N.*



Hereby also it was made felony to counterfeit the receipts for subscriptions, and also of the dividend warrants of the South-sea company, or any endorsements thereon.

In the same famous year 1720, the Turkey company made a most reasonable complaint to parliament, against some part of the English trade to Italy, as then managed by our Italian merchants: an act was therefor passed for prohibiting the importation of raw-silk and mohair yarn of the product or manufacture of Asia from any ports or places in the Straits or Levant seas, except from such ports or places as are within the dominions of the grand signior. [6 *Geo. I. c. 14.*] It seems our Italian merchants at Leghorn frequently purchased of the French those goods, which they had brought from Turkey, in return for French woollen goods sent to Turkey; thereby encouraging the French woollen manufacture, and discouraging our own. In this application the Turkey company declared, that they then consisted of 200 members, all of whom traded separately for themselves, and bought and sold without limitation.

We have an authentic view of the strength of the royal navy of Great Britain at this time, 1720, in Secretary Burchet's Naval history, published this year, viz.

|       |                        |   |           |
|-------|------------------------|---|-----------|
| 7     | ships of               | - | 100 guns, |
| 13    | -                      | - | 90        |
| 16    | -                      | - | 80        |
| 23    | -                      | - | 70        |
| 19    | -                      | - | 60        |
| 47    | -                      | - | 50        |
| <hr/> |                        |   |           |
| 125   | of the line of battle. |   |           |
| 23    | -                      | - | 40        |
| 9     | -                      | - | 30        |
| 25    | -                      | - | 20        |
| <hr/> |                        |   |           |

182 ships, carrying 9,940 guns;  
exclusive of those necessary for others of lesser dimensions; as fire-ships, bomb-vessels, store-ships, floops, yachts, hoys, &c. which, he says, amounted to 50 more. We may safely subjoin, that since then our royal navy is greatly increased, as well in the bulk and construction, as in their number and strength.

The favourite project of France, in respect to North-America, being to join their colony of Canada to that of Louisiana, and also to obtain a port in the Ocean; they, for those ends, began very early after the treaty of Utrecht to extend their limits on that continent; and though the 15th article of that peace had absolutely excluded them from molesting, or encroaching on, the five Indian nations of the Iroquois, as being

peculiarly subject to the British crown; yet they this year seized on the most important pass of Niagara, and fortified the same, whereby they were able to command the lakes, and to form a plan for extending their power to the Ohio river, and to carry their chain of forts and settlements thence down to the Mississippi river; and this fort they held till the year 1759. In the meantime, they had by many arts debauched those five Indian nations so far, that they were brought to murder our people settled among them in great numbers.

In a treaty of peace, concluded this year between Denmark and Sweden at Frederickstadt under the mediation of George I king of Great Britain, it was stipulated, that, upon the crown of Denmark relinquishing all former pretensions on the crown of Sweden, the ships of Sweden, in passing the Sound, or either of the two Belts, should thenceforth pay to Denmark the same toll as is paid by Great Britain and the United Netherlands; Sweden thereby renouncing all exemption from the said toll. So that by this treaty, there was thenceforth to be no longer any difference of nations in passing into or returning from the Baltic; all paying a like toll for ships and cargoes\*.

1721.—While Archangel was the only staple port for the Russian naval commerce, the foreign merchants usually resided at Moscow, and only travelled thence in the summer season to Archangel, where they had their warehouses and factors: this method continued till the year 1721, when by order of the czar Peter the Great, the seat of commerce was transferred from Archangel to his new emporium of Petersburg, (now grown a very considerable city) which obliged the foreign traders to remove their factories to it.

According to a quarto pamphlet, (published by the noted William Wood 1721) entitled, the State of the copper and brass manufactures in Great Britain, about 30,000 people were then supposed to subsist by those manufactures. He also remarks, that those metals were refined by pit-coal alone. 'We have' (says he) 'plenty of lapis calaminaris for making brass. Copper ore is found in many counties of England, Wales, and Scotland: and this nation could supply itself with copper and brass, of its own produce, sufficient for all occasions, if such duties were laid on foreign copper and brass as would discourage their importation, and at the same time encourage the sale of our own metal.'

After all the stir, without doors by pamphlets and newspapers, and within doors by a secret committee of parliament, all that could be done for the South-sea company, was 1st, By an act of parliament of

\* The amount of goods imported into England in the year 1720 was £6,090,083; and the total of the exports, not including coin and bullion, was £6,910,899; as they are stated by Sir Charles Whitworth in his *State of the trade of Great Britain*, from which I propose to extract the totals of every tenth year to the conclusion of the reign of George II. M.

the 7th of King George, to restrain their sub-governor, deputy-governor, directors, treasurers, and accountant \*, from going out of the kingdom, and for discovering their estates. 2dly, By another act of the same year, they were disabled from ever after enjoying the said offices, &c. 3dly, Another of the same year was for raising money on their estates, and on those of Mr. Aislaby and Mr. Craggs senior, towards making good the losses sustained by their mismanagement in the year 1720; out of which they were however allowed certain sums for their maintenance. 4thly, By another act of the same year, for making several provisions to restore the public credit, which suffers by the frauds and mismanagements of the late directors of the South-sea company and others; besides what we have already noted, of remitting to that company all the benefit the public was to have reaped by the company's privilege of taking in the public debts, and the putting the redeemables and the four money subscriptions on an equal footing, the borrowers on stock and subscriptions in that year were hereby to be released, on paying 10 per cent to the company; from which 10 per cent they were afterward also released. Hereby also all unperformed contracts for any kind of stocks and subscriptions, made during the year 1720, were directed to be registered by a fixed time, and in the meantime all law suits thereon were to remain suspended; which gave immediate ease to very many persons concerned therein. By this act likewise, two millions of the company's capital was to be sunk from midsummer 1722, for the benefit of the public. And the secret committee, after a farther report, (of very little use or consequence) broke off all farther inquiries.

On the 1st of September, in this same year, the additional L33 : 6 : 8 per cent in stock was made to the several proprietors already mentioned.

Peace was concluded at Madrid on the 13th of June 1721, between Great Britain and Spain, whereby the peace of Utrecht was in general confirmed, and the South-sea company were restored to the exercise of the assiento contract for negroes, &c. and the full value of all that had been seized was stipulated to be refunded to them. The antient limits of both nations in America were confirmed, and the freedom of the cod fishery at Newfoundland.

In consequence of the peace, the South-sea company in the same year sent out their great and rich annual ship to the Spanish West-Indies; i. e. to Porto Bello and Carthagena; which, however, from various causes, did not answer the great hopes at first conceived of that voyage. The difficulties perpetually started by the court of Madrid, the avarice of the company's own servants, and of the Spanish officers in America, were much more the occasion of this voyage not proving advantageous, than any want of prudent concert in planning or designing it.

\* This last was afterwards left out of the bill. A.

A definitive treaty of peace was also concluded this year between Sweden and Russia: whereby the former was obliged to confirm or yield to Russia (what had been before conquered) the very best jewel of the Swedish crown, viz. Livonia, together with Esthonia, Ingria, Carelia, and the town of Wyburg, with the isles of Oesel, Dragoe, and Moen. The czar, on the other side, restored a part of Finland to the king of Sweden, and also agreed to pay him two millions of rix-dollars, and that the Swedes should be permitted annually to buy corn to the amount of 50,000 rubles, at Riga, Revel, and Wyburg, free of customs. In point of commerce, also, the Swedes were to be treated as the most favoured nation.

This treaty was a severe check to the commerce, and a very considerable diminution of the territory and power, of Sweden, which she has never since been able to regain.

This year an attempt was made in the parliament of Ireland to erect a public bank in that kingdom: but it was rejected (it was said) purely for want of a sufficient currency of cash for circulating bank-notes there; and perhaps for some other more secret reasons.

The use of printed Indian calicoes in Britain, both in apparel and household furniture, was at this time become so universal, as to be a great detriment and obstruction to the woollen and silk manufactures of the kingdom. This had occasioned sundry riots and tumults of the weavers in London, &c. It was therefor found necessary to redress a grievance, wherein so many thousand families were deeply interested. An act of parliament was therefor passed, to preserve and encourage the woollen and silk manufactures, &c. which absolutely prohibited the wear thereof, under the penalty of L5 for each offence on the wearer, and of L20 on the feller. [7 Geo. I, c. 7].

And by an act for employing the manufacturers, and encouraging the consumption, of raw silk, and mohair yarn, buttons or button-holes made of cloth or other stuff, were absolutely prohibited. [7 Geo. I, c. 12.]

The Offenders still persisting to trade to the East-Indies, the British parliament passed an act for further preventing his majesty's subjects from trading to the East-Indies under foreign commissions, &c. prohibiting the importation of tea from any part of Europe; over and above all former restraints laid on British subjects from resorting or trading to the East-Indies under foreign commissions, with sundry other new additional restraints and penalties. [7 Geo. I, c. 20.] And by the Dutch placarts, it was made death for any of their subjects to be concerned therein.

In an act for raising a sum not exceeding L500,000, (charged on the civil list revenue) &c. there is a clause for discharging the two assurance companies, established by charters in the year 1720, (viz. the Royal-exchange and the London assurance companies) from so much of the

sum of L300,000, which each of them was obliged to pay to the king's use, as now remained unpaid ; in consideration of the difficulties which those two corporations laboured under.

According to the *British Merchant* [V. ii. p. 220, ed. 1721] the British silk manufacture amounted to L700,000 per annum in value more than it was at the revolution ; we importing, till that period, annually from France to the value of L500,000 in wrought silks of all kinds.

He adds, what was also well known, that till then there was little else made in England but brown paper ; whereas now there are two thirds of all the white paper we use made at home.

The increase of the French fishery on the banks of Newfoundland, and in the neighbouring parts, was so great about this time, that, as the same author [V. ii. p. 290] alleges, they employed yearly upwards of 400 sail of ships therein, from St. Malo, Grandville, Rochelle, St. Martin's, Bayonne, St. Jean de Luz, Sibour, &c. whereby they not only now supplied themselves entirely with fish, which they formerly had from England, but likewise rivalled us much in the fish trade to Spain and Italy.

According to Egede, a Danish author, and zealous missionary to Old Greenland, the Greenland company of Bergen in Norway now sent out a colony to resettle Old Greenland, after a large Norwegian colony had been destroyed, or otherwise lost, in that country some hundreds of years before. Mr. Egede, who went with this new colony, relates, that they found there some marks of old habitations and of antient tillage. He thinks that the old Norwegian colony must have been destroyed by the savage natives, or by an unusual pestilence ; and that the country was forgotten by the Danes and Norwegians till the year 1619, when some fruitless attempts were made from Copenhagen, to find out the country where that old colony had been settled.

After all, it is much to be doubted, whether there be commercial materials in that most cold and barren country, sufficient to induce any European nation to be at much expense in planting there, peltry and fish oil being probably its only product, and the country being very thin of inhabitants, and those too very miserable ones. We accordingly hear nothing farther of the success of that fresh attempt for colonizing in it till the year 1736.

There were employed this year in the whale fishery to Greenland and Davis's straits,

|                                     |   |            |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------|
| From sundry parts of Holland        | - | 251 ships. |
| From Hamburgh                       | - | 55         |
| From Bremen                         | - | 24         |
| From the ports in the Bay of Biscay | - | 20         |
| From Bergen in Norway               | - | 5          |

Total 355 ships.



This list, which was published at London at this time, probably, in part, encouraged the new South-sea court of directors to propose a whale fishery to their general courts, which however they did not finally agree to till three years after.

The preamble of an act of parliament of the 8th year of King George I, for giving farther encouragement for the importation of naval stores, &c. declares,

That, in consequence of former legal encouragements, it is found by experience, that great quantities of good and merchantable pitch and tar have been imported from the British plantations in America, which have been found useful for the service of his majesty's navy; and that it is necessary to give farther encouragement therein; so as the tar be clean and merchantable, as herein farther directed, for making cordage.

Moreover, it being probable, that the owners of large tracts of land in America and in Scotland, lying near the sea or on navigable rivers, would be induced to sow the same with hemp, if farther encouragement were given for that purpose: it was therefor enacted, that the premium of L6 per ton of hemp, so raised and imported, be farther continued for sixteen years, and be free of all customs whatever.

And whereas great quantities of wood and timber, and of the goods commonly called lumber, (of many several sorts of wood therein enumerated) have usually been imported into this kingdom from foreign countries at excessive prices, whereby foreigners have found opportunities to export the coin of the kingdom: and it is well known, that the said commodities, being of the growth and product of the British plantations in America, may be furnished from thence; for encouragement thereof it was enacted, that the said timber goods be exported, duty-free, from the plantations, for 91 years to come: excepting masts, yards, and bowsprits, touching which, duties and premiums are ascertained by former acts in that behalf.

The commissioners of the navy must have the pre-emption or refusal of the hemp, for 20 days after landing, for the use of the navy-royal.

The laws already made for the preservation of white pine trees in his majesty's colonies in America, for masting the royal navy, being found insufficient, it was now enacted, that no person should presume to cut, fell, or destroy, any white pine tree in the American provinces, named in former acts of parliament, (to which Nova-Scotia was now added), without the king's licence first obtained, under the several penalties for the various sized trees herein specified.

In this year (according to Keyser's Travels) the famous fine porcelain of Saxony was brought to perfection, being the invention of one Botticher, a chymist, who died in the year 1719. But he carried it no farther than to the white fort, the art of making brown and blue por-



celain not being found out till this year. This able author adds, that the invention of the Saxon porcelain was owing to alchymy.

In the same year Captain Scroggs, from Churchill-river fort in Hudson's Bay, failed upon the discovery of a north-west passage from that bay to China, &c. as far as latitude  $64^{\circ} 56'$ , where, as he reported, the land fell off to the southward of west: such of his people, as went up to the top of a mountain, reported, that they saw nothing to obstruct their going farther. This was a lame account, (says Mr Ellis's voyage, annis 1746—7) for why then did he not proceed\*?

Copper ore having been lately found in the province of New-York; it was now, by an act [8 *Geo. I, c. 18*] to prevent the clandestine running of goods, &c. made an enumerated commodity; i. e. it was made liable to the like restraint of being first landed in some port of Great Britain, as sugar, tobacco, &c. are, before being re-exported. The antient Peruvians had the use of copper tools, before they were conquered by the Spaniards; but this was the first discovery of copper in any of the British colonies of America.

The vast increase of buildings in the great western suburbs of London requiring a greater supply of fresh water than the present works could furnish, an act of parliament, of the 8th year of King George I, for better supplying the city and liberties of Westminster and parts adjacent with water, authorized the Chelsea water company, newly erected, to dig basons, reservoirs, &c. for bringing water from the river Thames to a place near Chelsea, and to convey the same (by an ingenious engine) to another reservoir in Hyde-park, whence it is conveyed in pipes to several streets and houses: and the crown was empowered to incorporate the undertakers, as was accordingly done in this same year.

The silk manufacture of England being brought to great perfection in all its branches, so as to equal the finest fabrications of any foreign nation, the British legislature now judged it proper to enact new encouragements to so noble a manufacture, by an act [3 *Geo. I, c. 15*] for encouraging the silk manufactures of this kingdom, and for promoting its exportation to foreign parts, by granting the following bounties thereon for three years to come, viz.

|  |    |   |   |
|--|----|---|---|
| For ribands and stuffs of silk only, for each pound avoirdupois  | Lo | 3 | 0 |
| Silks and ribands of silk mixed with gold or silver              | -  | 0 | 4 |
| Silk stockings, gloves, fringes, laces, stitching or sewing silk | 0  | 1 | 0 |
| Stuffs of silk and program-yarn                                  | -  | 0 | 0 |
| Silk stuffs mixed with inkle or cotton                           | -  | 0 | 1 |
| Stuffs of silk and worsted                                       | -  | 0 | 0 |

\* Scroggs was not very anxious for discovering a passage. See *Forster's Voyages in the North*, p. 387 of *English translation*. M.

This encouragement was founded on the consideration of raw and thrown filk paying a considerable duty on importation. And by a subsequent statute [9 *Geo. I. c. 8*] the mixed manufactures were not to be intitled to the bounties, unless at least two third parts of the ends or threads of the warp be either all filk, or mixed and twisted with filk. Both these statutes have since been farther prolonged.

By this well-judged statute for the encouragement of the British manufactures in general, the several duties whatsoever, payable thereon at exportation, were to cease and determine, (though they were still regularly to be entered at every customhouse), excepting such for which a special provision is therein after made, viz. alum, lead, tin, tanned leather, copperas, coals, wool-cards, white woollen cloths, lapis calaminaris, skins of all sorts, glue, coney-wool, hare's wool, hair of all sorts, horses, and litharge of lead.

Moreover, for the further encouragement of British manufactures, by promoting the importation of drugs, &c. used in dying; all such were (upon being duely entered) to be duty-free (saltpetre always excepted); but on re-exportation of those foreign dying stuffs, they were to pay the several duties therein specified; lest their being suffered to be exported duty-free should prove a benefit to the manufactures of foreign nations. Hereby also half the duty on beaver skins (now with other furs made an enumerated commodity) was to be drawn back on re-exportation: And the duty on the pepper of our own East-India company, for home consumption, which was before in all 2/ per pound weight, was now reduced to 4d per pound weight.

By an act of parliament of this year, for paying off and cancelling one million of exchequer bills, and giving ease to the South-sea company, in respect to their obligation to circulate exchequer-bills, &c. and for relief of the sufferers at Nevis and St. Christophers, &c. farther time was allowed to the South-sea company for repaying to the public the million of exchequer-bills formerly lent to them (and which was accordingly repaid the year following), and also fundry other regulations were made concerning exchequer bills, not material to our subject. Therein also there was an interest fixed, at the rate of 3 per cent yearly, on the united principal and large arrear of interest due to the sufferers of Nevis and St Christophers by the French in Queen Anne's war.

By the authority of another act of this year, to enable the South-sea company to dispose of the effects in their hands, &c. they sold to the bank of England four millions of their capital stock, attended with 5 per cent interest, or a yearly interest of £200,000; whereby the whole South-sea capital stock was reduced to £33,802,483: 14 \*. Hereupon the bank took in a subscription for sale of this new ingrafted stock at 118 per cent, whereby, in their corporate capacity, they gained

\* An error of £400, as already noted, was discovered in the subscriptions. A.

L610,169 : 10 bank stock : and the stock, thus sold at 18 per cent advance, amounting to L3,389,839 : 10, produced in money the exact sum due to the South-sea company, being L4,000,000. The whole bank capital due from the public hereby amounted to L9,375,027 : 17 : 10½, of which capital the sum of L1,600,000 was intitled to 6 per cent interest till the year 1742 ; the rest, with all the remaining South-sea capital, was to be reduced to 4 per cent after midsummer 1727.

By an abstract of the public debts, by Archibald Hutcheson Esq. for the year 1722 (published in 1723) it appears,

|   |   |   |   |   |   |         |          |   |                |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------|----------|---|----------------|
| That the gross amount of the post-office annual revenue was | - | - | - | - | - | -       | L201,804 | 1 | 8              |
| There was to be deducted for frank covers to letters        | - | - | - | - | - | L33,397 | 12       | 3 | } 103,793 13 8 |
| For the expense of management                               | - | - | - | - | - | 70,396  | 1        | 5 |                |

The post-office's net produce at michaelmas 1722 L98,010 8 0

By an act of parliament of this year, to prevent the mischiefs by forging powers to transfer any stocks, &c. it was made felony to forge, or procure to be forged, any letter of attorney for transferring any stocks or shares of corporations established by act of parliament, or to receive any dividend thereon, or to personate any real proprietor. This law was occasioned by a fraudulent letter of attorney for transferring some South-sea stock in the year 1720, though not discovered till fourteen months after. Whereupon the South-sea general court, after much debate, resolved (upon a ballot of 1,457 votes against 160) ' that every proprietor who has had, or shall have, stock transferred to him in the company's transfer-books, be intitled to the sum so transferred, upon his producing a receipt for the same, witnessed by the clerk attending the transfer-books, provided there appears no fraud on the part of the purchaser.'

In December 1722 the German emperor, Charles VI, first granted his charter for an East-India company at Ostend, before only connived at by him : whereupon a capital of six millions of florins was subscribed, and ships were now more openly sent out, which returned with cargoes of East-India merchandize, to the great loss of the English and Dutch East-India companies in the sales of their goods ; both which nations now therefor loudly complained thereof. The Dutch more especially and most vehemently insisted, and plainly made it appear, that the grant was directly repugnant to the treaty of Munster, whereby the king of Spain, then sovereign of the Netherlands, obliged himself and his successors, as such, never to extend their navigation or commerce in India beyond the limits then agreed upon, viz. the Spaniards not to sail to India from Europe, and the Dutch only thither by

the Cape of Good Hope ; that therefor the Austrian Netherlands, as well as Arragon, Naples, Sicily, and other subjects of the Spanish crown, were thereby barred from trading to India ; and that the emperor, as sovereign of the ten Netherland provinces, is likewise bound hereby ; since the maritime powers conquered those provinces for him, merely on the footing of his right to the Spanish monarchy, and he could hold those provinces no otherwise than the kings of Spain held them. By the 26th article also of the barrier treaty, this same emperor stipulated, that every thing relating to commerce should remain as stipulated by the treaty of Munster. That, on the part of England, it was clear, that by the 8th article of the treaty of Madrid, between England and Spain in 1670, Spain stipulated, that the king of Great Britain and his subjects should enjoy every benefit granted to the Dutch by the Munster treaty ; and consequently hereby, as well as by the barrier treaty, the English company, as well as their sovereign, have an undoubted right to oppose this Ostend trade to India.

And the British legislature, in order to prevent his majesty's subjects from subscribing, or being concerned in encouraging or promoting any subscription, for an East-India company in the Austrian Netherlands, and for better securing the lawful trade of his majesty's subjects to and from the East-Indies, enacted, that every British subject who should subscribe to the stock of the Ostend company, should forfeit the same, and triple the value thereof ; one third to the crown, and two thirds to the English East-India company. British subjects found in India, unless lawfully authorized, or within our East-India company's limits, are hereby declared guilty of an high crime and misdemeanor, and liable to such corporal punishment or imprisonment, and for such time, as the court where they shall be tried shall think fit, &c. [9 *Geo. I.* c. 26.] Yet these warm arguments did not as yet effectually prevail.

This year the king of Great Britain made a grant of the islands of St. Lucia and St. Vincent, in the West-Indies, to John duke of Montague ; whereupon that public-spirited nobleman sent over two governors, for those islands, with fifty-one other officers, and 425 servants, with all kinds of stores, provisions, artillery, &c. in six ships, under convoy of a king's ship, very completely fitted and provided for such a new colony. But they had no sooner begun to clear the ground for a fort in St. Lucia, in December 1722, than they had notice from the governor of Martinico, that his express orders from his master, the French king, were to dislodge them by force, unless they withdrew from the island in fifteen days time ; for which purpose 2000 men were landed from Martinico, and 500 from Guadaloupe. And as the English were by sickness and desertion reduced to 70 men fit to bear arms, Governor Uring judged it prudent, on due consultation, to abandon the islands on the 14th of January following ; it being also now stipulated with the French com-

mander, that the French forces should, in like manner, leave St. Lucia in its former neutral state, till there should be a final decision made between the two crowns. Upon which one obvious remark is sufficient, viz. that either certain previous stipulations should have been made between the two crowns for the duke's people to be permitted to settle on those isles, or else a much greater force should have been sent to protect them. St. Lucia being so near to Martinico, the French would probably hazard even a war with Britain, rather than let us possess and improve it, since thereby we should have been enabled farther to secure our Leeward islands; seeing no considerable armament could be made at Martinico but what would be presently known at St. Lucia.

This unfortunate expedition is said to have cost the duke no less a sum than £40,000, the greatest and most expensive undertaking attempted by any one subject in Christendom, on his own single bottom; the tradesmen being allowed from £25 to £30, and the officers from £50 to £400 per annum, for a year and a half, besides the shipping, provisions, ammunition, artillery, military and naval stores, &c. all at the duke's expense. It is certain that the islands of St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Dominica, are, and always have been; included in the governor of Barbados's commission; the title whereof runs thus, viz. 'Captain-general and governor of Barbados, and the rest of the Caribbee isles to the windward of Guadaloupe.'

In November 1730, according to a work intitled, the British empire in America, we find the following instructions from King George II to Mr. Worsley, governor of Barbados, relating to St. Lucia, viz.

'Whereas the French for some years have claimed a right to the island of St. Lucia, and do insist that the right to the islands of St. Vincent and Dominica, under your government, is in the Caribbeans now inhabiting the same, although we have an undoubted right to all the said islands, yet we have thought fit to agree with the French court, that, until our right shall be determined, the said islands shall be entirely evacuated by both nations. You are accordingly to signify the same to such of our subjects as shall be found inhabiting any of our said islands, that they do forthwith quit the same, until the right shall be determined as aforesaid. And you are to use your best endeavour, that no ships of our subjects, nor of any other nation, do frequent the said islands during the time aforesaid, excepting only for wood and water.'

In the very next month, viz. in December the same year, 1730, (that we may take in all at once what relates to this subject) the French king's instructions to Mr. de Champigny, his governor of Martinico, are in substance, 'that the English have for some years past made pretensions to the island of St. Lucia, which belongs to me, and to which I have an incontestable right: the same pretensions they have laid to the

' islands of St. Vincent and Dominica, which belong to the Carib-beans, natives of the country, according to the treaty of the 31st of March 1660; and in the possession whereof it is my intention to support them: I have nevertheless agreed with the court of England, that, until those pretensions shall be determined, the said islands shall be evacuated by both nations. And it is my pleasure that you make this known, &c.'

We have already given, at sundry times, somewhat of the history of the island of St. Lucia, and some account also of Dominica. That of St. Vincent is something more obscure. It lies to the southward of St. Lucia. When Governor Uring sent his counsellor, Mr. Egerton, thither, to prepare its inhabitants for submission to the British crown, he found two sorts of people there in great numbers, viz. the native Caribs, who were the aborigines or primitive possessors thereof; and the negroes, the descendants of a cargo of slaves from Africa, who had been shipwrecked there about 70 years before; and who, by the accession of other negroes, fugitives from the neighbouring European settlements, were increased to about 6000 men, women, and children. Their government was republican, viz. by chiefs or leaders by election. The Indians, or native Caribs, he found to consist of about 8000 persons, who inhabited sundry pretty villages, and seemed to live in plenty. They seemed also to be a determined people for liberty and independence, any farther than acknowledging the protection of the French at Martinico, which the later gladly afforded them, to prevent their putting themselves under the protection of any other European nation.

This year the general court of the African company made a call of L5 on every L100 nominal stock, for vigorously carrying on their trade: and the same court most injudiciously resolved, that a dividend of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent per annum be made to the proprietors of their stock.

The interference of the Ostend East-India company, and sundry other difficulties, at this time obliged the English East-India company to reduce their half-yearly dividend from 5 to 4 per cent.

1723.—Though four millions of the South-sea capital stock had been ingrafted (as we have shewn) into the capital stock of the bank of England, yet still that company's capital of L31,802,483: 14 was thought too large. At general courts their numbers had already been, and might hereafter be, tumultuous. The legislature therefor judging that inconveniencies were likely to arise from the great number of proprietors, determined to divide the capital into two equal moieties: by an act (of the 9th of King George 1) 'for reviving and adding two millions to the said capital stock, and for dividing their whole capital' (after such addition made) 'into two equal moieties, &c.' The said two millions were hereby accordingly carried to each proprietor's account, making one sixteenth part, or L6: 5 per cent; and the capital, thus again made "



L33,802,483:14 (in consideration of the proprietor's great losses from the bad execution of the scheme) was also hereby intitled to all arrears of interest, from midsummer 1722; and the whole was, after midsummer 1723, to be divided into two equal moieties,

The one moiety being - - - L16,901,241 17 0

To be converted into a joint stock, to be called South-sea annuities, bearing 5 per cent interest till midsummer 1727, when they should be reduced to 4 per cent, and be farther redeemable by parliament. The other moiety to remain a capital, or joint trading stock in the company, attended with the remaining yearly fund, redeemable likewise after midsummer 1627, - - -

16,901,241 17 0

The total of both, as above, being - L33,802,483 14 0

Notwithstanding which division by this act, yet the real amount of each moiety was settled as follows, viz.

South-sea annuities, - - - L16,901,240 1 8

South-sea stock, - - - 16,901,243 12 4

the difference of L3:10:8 arising from leaving the odd penny of every proprietor's stock with his moiety of the capital trading stock.

The first payment of a quarter's interest on the joint stock of South-sea annuities, being  $1\frac{1}{4}$  per cent, was to be at michaelmas 1723; and from thence there were to be half-yearly payments at lady-day and michaelmas yearly; as on the other moiety, to remain capital South-sea stock, the dividends were to remain as before, at midsummer and christmas yearly.

This year the South-sea company sent out for La Vera Cruz, in Spanish Mexico, their rich annual ship, named the Royal Prince.

The abuses committed by the inhabitants of a pretended privileged place, adjoining to the borough of Southwark, called Suffolk-place, or the Mint, had been long complained of, and had become a very great grievance. Such great numbers of debtors, sheltering themselves therein from the pursuit of their creditors, and audaciously bidding open defiance to the officers appointed to put the laws in execution, it became necessary to put an end to so shameful an abuse, which was accordingly done, by an act of parliament, [9 Geo. I, c. 28] whereby it was made felony to obstruct the execution of any writ, rule, or order, of any court of law or of equity, or of any escape warrant, or warrants of justices: and the sheriff of Surrey was empowered to raise the *posse comitatus*, for taking by force any debtor out of the Mint: and sundry other regulations are, in the same statute, ordained for effectually preventing that or any other

place from committing such open breaches of law and order for the future. So that from this time forward there has none dared to set on foot any pretended privileged place or sanctuary anywhere in Great-Britain or Ireland for sheltering debtors from the due course of law.

In this year Mr. William Wood (whom we have elsewhere mentioned as a great proprietor in iron and copper works) having obtained a patent for coining copper halfpence and farthings for the use of the kingdom of Ireland, to the amount of £100,000 sterling, both houses of the parliament of that kingdom, in their addresses to the king, warmly represented, that, under colour of the said patent, great quantities of halfpence of different impressions, and of much less weight than is required by the patent, had been imported and attempted to be uttered in that kingdom: and that even though the terms of the patent had been strictly complied with, there would have been a loss to the nation of at least 150 per cent by the said coinage, and much greater, in the manner the halfpence have been coined.

Mr. Wood alleged, in his own vindication, that by the patent of King Charles II in 1680, and by that of King James II in 1684, a halfpenny was to weigh 110 grains, whereas his halfpenny weighed 116 $\frac{1}{4}$  grains, and was better copper than the said halfpence; but he is silent as to the parliament's objection, of the quantity of copper in his halfpenny being less than required by the patent. In fine, a keen opposition was raised in Ireland, both within doors and without, and by pamphlets, newspapers, &c. against that new copper coin, partly because the patent was given to one who was not a native of Ireland, and because the coin was altogether stamped in England; and partly also, that since a great profit was thereby to be made, that benefit should have accrued principally to the public; (which reason, we confess, seems to carry great weight with it) and (we may add likewise) that great pains had been taken by party-men in Ireland, to inflame the people there against receiving the new copper money. The king, therefor, in compliance with the representations of the parliament of Ireland, and the general dispositions and inclinations of the people of that kingdom, altered the patent, that instead of £100,000 in copper coin, Mr. Wood might be permitted to send to Ireland only £40,000 in all, to be current only to such as pleased voluntarily to accept of them; though to Mr. Wood's considerable detriment. Yet if the representations of Mr. Wood be true, that the whole current cash of Ireland does not exceed £400,000, and that the customs, excise, hearth-money, and quit-rents, amount to £500,000 per annum, so as that one fourth part more than all the current cash of that kingdom is annually paid into their exchequer, then, surely, this addition of £100,000 would have been a benefit to trade. And if Mr. Wood's coin was not to be received, they should seriously have set about substituting a competent quantity of other copper coin in its stead.

Notwithstanding a rebellion which broke out in 1715, and a dangerous conspiracy against the established constitution, discovered at the close of the preceding year 1722, yet such is the spirit and genius of the British nation for commerce, that it was seen and observed by all inquisitive people to be still constantly flourishing. Erasmus Philips Esquire, an author of good credit, gives us an instance thereof in his pamphlet, intitled, the State of the nation in respect of her commerce, debts, and money, [2d ed. 1726] which acquaints us, that from the year 1701 to 1723 the amount of the British customs was so considerable, that the net money paid into the exchequer, on an average for the said twenty-three years, was £1,446,022 per annum; even exclusive of seizures: (which account nearly coincides with that before exhibited in the year 1715) and with seizures it amounted to £1,467,593 net money per annum. He also gives us the quantity of silver and gold coined in the tower of London between the years 1701 and 1724, viz. in silver, only 175,464 pounds weight; and in gold no less than 241,183 pounds weight; which, valuing a pound weight of gold at £44 sterling, makes the gold coined in England in twenty-three years time to amount in value to £10,612,052 sterling. This vast coinage of gold in those years was owing to our putting too high a value on gold in proportion to silver, whereby foreign nations were encouraged to import gold upon us in exchange for our silver; which inconvenience, as we have seen, was remedied by reducing guineas from 21/6 to 21/ by the advice of Sir Isaac Newton.

After the confusion and shameful jumble of the French company of the Indies, made by the authority of the duke of Orleans, regent of France during the minority of Louis XV, which consolidated company was established upon the original capital of the Western company, and 25 millions of livres added thereto upon the union of the East-India company therewith; it was now judged requisite, for restoring things to some order, that a revision should be made of the actions possessed by the proprietors of this consolidated company, for distinguishing (as was speciously alleged) between such as had acquired their property fairly by purchase, and such as had by stock-jobbing forced themselves into the company's books. The king therefor fixed the capital at 112 millions of livres, the annual interest on which was fixed (if any thing can be called fixed in France but the power of the monarch) at 8 millions, to be paid out of the farm of tobacco, and the profits of the furs from Canada. And the commerce of the Indies was assigned to the company as a collateral security for the present, to be employed for enlarging the funds and for discharging the incumbrances thereon. Yet, till many years after this time, the East-India trade of France was managed in a very languid manner, they being obliged to pay off many old debts, to rebuild their ships and factories, and to lay out above 15.

millions for improving Louisiana, and for completing the superb works of Port l'Orient. But Orry coming to be at the head of the French finances in the year 1737, he so effectually supported and improved the East-India company, that their public sale at Port L'Orient in 1742 amounted to 24 millions of livres, (or about one million sterling) which greatly alarmed England and Holland, who did not at first know that all this fine appearance was chiefly supported by the crown, until the war with England in the year 1744 obliged Orry to declare to the company, that they must now stand on their own legs. Notwithstanding all which, and the stoppage of their dividends at that time, they have since vastly improved their commerce and power in India, even almost to the present time.

1724.—After much debate in several of the general courts of the South-sea company concerning the utility of attempting a Greenland trade or whale fishery, wherein it was plainly shewn, that former Greenland companies were so unsuccessful as to run out their whole capital, and that some foreign nations have sundry advantages over our people in respect to this fishery, the company at length resolved to commence that fishery. It was certainly a well-intended and popular resolution, and was agreeable to the powers granted by the first act of parliament, and to the royal charter, for erecting the company, as well as to part of the title given to it by the royal charter. In order to encourage the company, an act of parliament, for encouraging the Greenland fishery, repealed the duty of threepence per pound weight on whale-fins; and decreed that whale-fins, oil and blubber of whales, caught and imported in British ships, (whereof the commander and at least one third of the mariners to be British subjects) should absolutely be custom-free for seven years from christmas 1724. [10 Geo. I, c. 16.]

And by another act, the freedom from all custom whatever was extended to Davis's straits and the seas adjacent, and also comprehended therein seal-oil, seal-skins, or any other produce of seals, or other fish or creatures, caught in any of those seas, such as the large white bears, so commonly found on the ice there, and sea-horses, or morfes, also very numerous in those seas. [12 Geo. I, c. 26.]

Yet, it being too late for the fishery of the present year, they directed twelve fine ships, of 306 tons each, to be built in the river Thames, and proper quantities of hemp from Riga, and cask-staves from Hamburgh, to be got ready for the ensuing spring: the company also hired the duke of Bedford's great wet dock at Deptford for the use of their ships and stores, and for curing their oil and whale-fins.

This year also the South-sea company sent out their rich annual ship for Carthagena and Portobello in the Spanish West-Indies.

1725.—In the year 1725 the South-sea company commenced their unfortunate whale fishery. Their twelve ships brought home twenty-

five whales and a half. \* And, though this was scarcely a saving voyage, it was nevertheless the very best year of any of the eight in which they carried on that fishery. It must be noted, that the nation having entirely relinquished this trade for so many years past, there was not an Englishman to be found who knew any thing of the whale fishery; and the company were obliged to have all their commanders, harponeers, boat-steerers, line-veerers, and blubber-cutters, from Fohrde in Holstein, (some few natives of Scotland excepted, who on this occasion left the service of the Dutch) who had before this time been constantly employed either by the Hamburgers, Bremers, or Dutch. Those Holsteiners cost the company this year L3056 : 18 : 3, although but 152 in number; not only because they were all what are usually called officers in that fishery, and consequently had more wages and allowances than the common sailors, but had also their charges born by the company, both in coming every year from, and returning back to, Holstein to their families, as was also their constant practice when employed by other nations: whereas above double their number, viz. 353 British subjects employed on those twelve ships, cost but L3151 : 15 : 5.

By an act for continuing the several annuities to the bank of England until midsummer 1727, &c. the yearly fund on the principal sums of L1,775,027 : 17 : 10½, and of L2,000,000, due to that corporation, was reduced from 5 to 4 per cent after midsummer 1727: and all the funds of the bank were put on an equal footing with those of the South-sea company; excepting only the bank's original capital of L1,600,000, which still remained at 6 per cent. [11 Geo. I, c. 9.]

This act also made it felony to alter, forge, or counterfeit, bank notes, or to erase or alter any indorsement thereon; or to tender in payment, utter, vend, exchange, or barter, any such bank note, knowing the same to be altered, forged, erased, or counterfeited, with intention to defraud the bank, or any other person or body politic.

About this time the French began to supply the European markets with great quantities of their sugars from Martinico, Hispaniola, &c. formerly and almost totally supplied by us, (though in part they are still supplied by the Portuguese Brasil sugars, and, of late, by the Dutch from Surinam). And in a few years after, by their great application, they gained from us the greatest part of that very profitable branch of commerce. The anonymous author of the Present state of the British and French sugar colonies, (printed in 1740,) makes the French sugars exported to the European markets amount to so vast a quantity as 80,000 hogheads yearly, and the indigo raised by the French in their West-India colonies, in value to one million of sterling money; three

\* When two ships strike the same whale, it is, by the custom of the fishery, divided between them. A.



fourths of which they sell to other nations. And they also export to other European nations, in cacao, cotton, ginger, rum, (he might have added, coffee, &c.) about £250,000 yearly; to all which may be added the freight thereon; the great number of persons, both in Europe and America, as well as in their ships, constantly maintained thereby; the great consumption of the product and manufactures of France, both in the West-Indies, and on the African coasts for the purchase of their slaves; and then we need not wonder, that even so long ago as the year 1701, the new French council of commerce, in a memorial, could say, that the navigation of France owed all its increase and splendour to the commerce of its sugar islands, and that it could not be kept up and enlarged otherwise than by that commerce.

1726.—Twelve more ships being built by the South-sea company, they sent out 24 ships on their second voyage on the whale fishery to Greenland and Davis's straits. But they now succeeded considerably worse than in their first voyage, having brought home but sixteen whales and an half.

In Mr. Philips's State of the nation in respect to her commerce, debts and money, he gives us a summary view of the English East-India company's trade, and of its benefits to the public; about which, however, men are still far from being generally agreed.

He says, the company's sales have for many years past exceeded £2,200,000 yearly; consisting of wrought and raw silk, calicoes, salt-petre, drugs, tea, coffee, cotton, and cotton-yarn, Carmentia wool, &c.

That £1,000,000 thereof may probably be consumed at home\*.

That the company's exports annually to India are to the value of £500,000 in bullion and manufactures†.

To the million consumed at home he adds £400,000, to be deducted for the drawback allowed at the custom-house upon the £1,200,000 re-exported. And concludes,

That the remaining £800,000 is, or should be, the annual gain to the nation by the East-India trade.

Now, to this balance of national gain ought certainly to have been added the total of our manufactures exported to India. What he adds is very true, that the company's trade maintains very many people at home, as well as considerable numbers of our people in India, who bring home much wealth to their native country. But what he says about our East-India trade having brought down the price of other European wares, which we used before we entered into it, seems of little consideration in this state of the company. Moreover, says he, if

\* It is to be feared that this computation is rather under the truth. *A.*

† It is strange to mix bullion and manufactures together. The exportation of the latter is universally allowed to be profitable, while that of the former is generally supposed detrimental. *A.*



the East-India merchandize re-exported pay for such European goods, for which, without this trade, we must have paid in cash, it is in effect the same as if it brought in so much cash or bullion. As this trade also furnishes us with what otherwise we must necessarily have bought of the Dutch \*. possibly the nation's yearly profit by it may be near one million sterling.

Lastly, in contemplation of the vast exportation of silver from all Europe to East-India, there buried since 1602, so as never to return, computed to amount to 150 millions sterling; had that vast sum remained to this day in Europe, whereby our proportion of cash would have been triple to what it now is, the consequence would have been, that commodities and labour would probably have risen in a triple proportion; and, in effect, we should not have been richer in such a case than we are at present.

He has here forgotten the national benefit from a very great annual sum paid for the custom of East-India goods consumed at home, said to amount to above £300,000. And, that a considerable part of the million of East-India commodities, annually consumed or remaining at home, is worked up in our great and very profitable manufactures of silk and cotton, and much of the drugs are also employed therein.

This year the king granted the East-India company a new charter of confirmation, with ample powers for them to erect a corporation at Fort St. George, by the name of the mayor and aldermen of Madraspatan in the East-Indies; another corporation at the factory and town of Bombay, by the name of the mayor and aldermen of Bombay; and a third corporation within the factory of Fort William in Bengal, by the name of the mayor and aldermen of Calcutta at Fort William in Bengal; with perpetual succession to each of the said three corporations, and a common seal; to make bye laws, and to try causes both civil and criminal, high-treason excepted.

Philips, speaking of the circulation of money, supposes, that France is to England as eight is to three; that their specie or money is perhaps proportionable. Yet there is a greater shew of money in England than in France; but if the circulation of France were equal to that of England, France would appear of course so much richer than England.

Possibly (says he) the real yearly rents of England may be - - - - - £20,000,000  
it being supposed that our lands are not taxed at half their value.

The customs of England produce annually about - 1,600,000

Which customs, on an average of 30 per cent *ad valorem*,  
make the value of our annual imports to be about - 5,300,000

\* Meaning (we presume) saltpetre, pepper, and drugs. A.

|  |   |   |            |
|--|---|---|------------|
| And our re-exportations may be about   | - | - | 1,500,000  |
| The other duties and funds may be about  | - | - | 2,199,328  |
| If there be eight millions of people in England, I believe I shall not exceed in supposing them to consume in manufactures about   |   |   |            |
|  | - | - | 16,000,000 |
| Now, although the interest arising from mortgaged lands be included in the before-named rental, yet the mortgages themselves are often transferred, and may therefore be deemed money in circulation: and these have been computed at one fifteenth part of the whole value of the lands, or about |   |   |            |
|  | - | - | 26,000,000 |
| The national debt about  | - | - | 53,000,000 |
| The malt-tax about   | - | - | 600,000    |

So that the whole money-transactions of this nation seems to be about - - - - - L126,199,328

This Mr. Philips speaks of as a stupendous thought.

Now, though this computation may in general be thought liable to some exception, yet some parts of it may hereafter strike out new lights, or at least start new thoughts, for juster computations.

While Britain and the states-general of the United Netherlands were remonstrating at Vienna, and promulgating acts of parliament and placards against the continuance of the Ostend company's trade to India, that company's general court resolved this year to make a dividend of 12 per cent to their proprietors, and to maintain their settlement at Coblore on the coast of Coromandel, their factories at Bengal, and their trade to Canton in China. Nevertheless, we shall soon see an end put to that company. For, though neither gratitude for past benefits, nor regard for the clearest and strongest treaties, could prevail at Vienna, the resolutions of the two powers, so nearly interested in the suppression of that company by main force, became too strong to be much longer resisted.

The western suburbs of London so greatly increasing, wherein persons of quality and distinction usually reside, the legislature, by a clause in an act for granting an aid to his majesty by laying a duty upon all victuallers, &c. empowered the commissioners for hackney coaches and chairs to add one hundred hackney chairs to the former numbers, so as the whole exceed not 400 in number: each of which shall continue to pay 10s per annum for their licences.

By an act of parliament of the 12th of King George I, for better securing the monies and effects of the suitors of the court of chancery, &c. it was made felony without benefit of clergy, not only to forge or counterfeit the name or hand of the accountant-general of the court of

chancery, and of the register and clerk of the report-office, but likewise the name or hand of any of the cashiers of the bank of England, to any certificate, report, entry, indorsement, declaration of trust, note, direction, authority, instrument, or writing whatsoever, for receiving or obtaining money or effects of suitors in chancery: as also any bond or obligation under the seals of the East-India and South-sea companies, or any indorsement thereon.

1727.—The South-sea company having built another new ship for the whale fishery, they sent out their whole twenty-five ships in the year 1727 on that fishery; wherein were employed 1106 men, viz. 762 British subjects and 344 foreigners. This also proved an unfortunate voyage, two of the ships being lost, and the remaining twenty-three ships brought home but 22½ whales.

The great river and bay of Delaware, and the seas adjoining, abounding with fish of various kinds, fit for foreign markets, whereby the trade of Great Britain, as well as the inhabitants of the province of Pennsylvania, would reap considerable benefits, especially by enabling the later to purchase more of the British manufactures than at present they are able to do, an act of parliament now passed, in the 13th year of King George I, for importing salt from Europe into the province of Pennsylvania in British ships, navigated as by the acts of navigation, for curing their fish, in like sort as is practised in New-England and Newfoundland, by virtue of an act of the 15th of King Charles II.

Nothing can more obviously demonstrate the amazing increase of England's commerce in less than two centuries past, than the great increase of many of its commercial and manufacturing towns; such, for instance, as the town and port of Liverpool in Lancashire, which in our days is become the greatest emporium of the British empire, next after London and Bristol: and, though it is allowed to be an antient corporation and borough, it was nevertheless so inconsiderable in point of population and magnitude, even in the last generation, as not to be a separate parish within itself, till the year 1699, by an act of parliament of the 10th and 11th of King William, when a new parish-church was erected, there being only a chapel there till then. In the year 1715, it was so much increased, that, by an act of the 1st of King George I, a second parish and church was erected in it. The author of the third volume of the Tour through the whole island of Great Britain, published in 1727, observes, that in his first visit to Liverpool in 1680, it was a large handsome thriving town. At his second visit, ten years after, it was become much bigger; and, as the inhabitants reported, twice as large as it was twenty years before: but at his third visit, in 1726, it was more than double its bigness at the time of his second visit in the year 1690. And it is still increasing in wealth, people, business, and buildings.

This same author, treating of Manchester, in the same county, observes, that within a very few years past, here, as at Liverpool, and also at Froome in Somersetshire, the town is extended in a surprising manner; being almost double to what it was a few years ago: so that, taking in all its suburbs, it now (1727) contains at least 50,000 people. 'That the grand manufacture which has so much raised this town, is that of cotton in all its varieties, which, like all our other manufactures, is very much increased within these 30 or 40 years.' Nevertheless, this vast place is but a mere village in point of government, as having no officer higher than a constable: whereby it may possibly be the largest village in Christendom, according to our legal sense of that term.

The like increase, and very near as sudden, has happened to the town of Birmingham in Warwickshire; which, in point of government, is as much a village as Manchester. Its vast increase is entirely owing to its iron and hard-ware manufacture of a great variety of sorts, whereby it is said to employ upwards of 30,000 people.

In March this year, departed this life, the incomparably great and excellent Sir Isaac Newton, aged 85, president of the royal society, master of his majesty's mint: probably the greatest philosopher, and undoubtedly the greatest mathematician, in Europe, whose entire character, however, we are far from pretending to draw. It shall only suffice us to say, in one word, that he has not left his equal, in all probability, on the face of the whole earth; having, even by all the learned of foreign nations, been allowed the pre-eminence, and to be the unrivalled glory of the British name and nation.

This year the general court of the South-sea company agreed to discharge all the borrowers of money on their stock and subscriptions in the famous year 1720, who had not already repaid the same, on condition of their paying back only 10 per cent of the money so borrowed.

The general court of the royal African company made several resolutions for carrying on their trade, and preventing the separate traders from interfering with them: for reducing their then nominal capital stock, so as every L800 be reduced to L100, and so as their whole capital shall not exceed L400,000, including therein a certain quantity of additional stock, to be created in their corporate capacity, and to be sold out to individuals, for enabling them to carry on their trade. But it all came to nothing.

The island of Madagascar lying within the East-India company's limits of trade, an act of parliament of this 13th year of King George I was obtained, to enable the South-sea company, with the licence and consent of the East-India company, to take in negroes there, and to deliver the same at Buenos-Ayres: the South-sea company giving security to the East-India company not to break bulk anywhere within the limits of the later company, nor to sail to any place within their limits, except

Madagascar, under forfeiture of their ships, furniture, and ladings, and of double the value. This act to continue for six years only; and the South-sea company was thereby limited to four ships annually, and to carry to Madagascar nothing but the necessary provisions, &c. solely for the purchase of negroes. About this time, the South-sea company actually employed upwards of 30 ships and sloops, beside their great annual ship, in their negro trade to the Spanish ports of America, and in making returns for the same.

By another statute of this same year and session, for enlarging the time for hearing and determining claims by the trustees for raising money on the estates of the late directors of the South-sea company and others, the net produce of those estates is directed to be applied solely for the benefit of the company.

In this year William Burnet Esquire, the worthy governor of New-York, having duely considered, that the main support of the French colony of Canada was the fur and peltry trade with the Indians; and that, moreover, their towns of Quebec and Montreal were chiefly supplied with European merchandize by our merchants of New-York, at a much cheaper rate than they had them from France, he rightly inferred, that, if the traders of New-York were totally debarred from carrying their goods to Canada, they might themselves directly, or at first hand, supply the Indian tribes near the lakes of Canada with English merchandize: for that end he obtained an act of the assembly of New-York, for opening a most profitable trade directly with those Indian nations, who till now had dealt entirely with the French of Canada. For which purpose the New-York assembly was at the expense, this very year, of building and fortifying a trading place at Oswego on the east bank of lake Ontario, where they continued to keep a garrison (till they were assaulted and driven out by the French from Canada in the year 1757, that fort having been too slightly built) and had upwards of 300 traders there, who constantly met the Indians from Canada, and from the great lakes west and north from lake Ontario, and south from lake Erie. This was a promising step towards acquiring all the inland trade of North-America, by erecting fortified truck-houses on the farther lakes in, and west of, Canada. But in succeeding times the French in those parts were, through our shameful supineness, suffered to make gradual incroachments on the boundaries of that and our other northern provinces of America, till it became very near too late to put a stop to their career.

By a statute [13 *Geo. I. c. 3*] for redeeming sundry annuities transferable at the bank of England, and the annuities payable on standing orders, &c. all the redeemable annuities transferable at the bank, and those assignable at the exchequer, which were not subscribed into the



South-sea company in the year 1720, were now paid off by the sinking fund.

By another statute of this session, for the regulation of the woollen manufacture, &c. the justices of the counties of Gloucester, Wilts, and Somerset, were empowered to appoint a certain number of inspectors in each of those counties, with a salary of £30 each yearly; who should, on every week-day, have power to enter into and inspect all mills, work-houses, and tenter-grounds, of clothiers, &c. concerned in manufacturing and milling mixed or medley woollen broad cloths, for measuring, and otherwise examining the goodness thereof; and to certify their sufficiency by a leaden seal with the inspector's name. This office is instead of the antient one of aulneger, and also of the subsequent inspectors, who, for want of sufficient checks, were become useless. These inspectors were to lay their register books before every general quarter-session for each county, with an account of all penalties and forfeitures incurred by the makers of insufficient cloths.

By another statute of this session, for preventing frauds and abuses in the dying trade, penalties are inflicted on dyers of black bays, and other woollen goods, without woad, indigo, or madder. And a penalty is also inflicted on every person using logwood in the dying of blue in any kind of woollen goods.

After all the bustle which the Austrian Netherlands and the court of Vienna had so long made about their Ostend company's trade to the Indies, the arguments urged by Britain and Holland were so cogent, and so effectually powerful, that the emperor now found himself necessitated, first to suspend that company's charter for seven years, and afterwards to revoke it entirely.

The king of Spain having now in vain laid siege to Gibraltar, before any formal declaration of war against the crown of Great-Britain, he at the same time ordered a seizure of all the effects of the South-sea company in America, with the great ship Prince Frederick and its cargo at La Vera Cruz, to the amount of upwards of £120,000 sterling. And this was the second time that the court of Madrid made such sudden seizures; whereby the precariousness of this company's trade to the Spanish West-Indies did now but too plainly appear.

At midsummer this year the reduction of the interest on the national debt from 5 to 4 per cent took place; whereby the famous sinking fund was increased to above one million per annum. Had those, whose province it properly was, kept punctually to the paying off at least one million of the public debts annually, from this year 1727 to the year 1739, when we declared war against Spain, in how much easier a situation would the nation then have been? Instead of which frugal measure, that sacred fund has been, either directly or indirectly, sacrilegiously and wantonly violated, to the inconceivable damage of the nation's commerce, which



otherwise would have long since been greatly eased by the abolition of many taxes, duties, and customs, which are at present very heavy clogs on our manufactures and foreign commerce, and enable our rivals to undersell us at foreign markets, to our unspeakable detriment. By the necessary operation of the sinking fund of only one million yearly, it was very plainly shewn, by a judicious pamphlet, intitled, an Essay on the public debts of this kingdom, ' that, supposing the national debt, ' then of 50 millions, and the sinking fund of one million, to be both ' at 4 per cent interest, the later increasing annually in like proportion ' as such a sum put out to compound interest would do, the whole national debt would have been discharged by the year 1756.'

We shall here only farther note, that upon this second reduction of the interest of our national debts, their market price advanced very considerably.

In this same year an act of parliament passed for encouraging and promoting fisheries, manufactures, and other improvements, in that part of Great Britain called Scotland; whereby the crown was empowered to appoint commissioners for managing the application of the funds for improving fisheries and commerce there: and those commissioners were annually to lay before the king any alterations necessary for improving the fisheries and manufactures of that country.

By a statute [*1 Geo. II, c. 8.*] for granting an aid to his majesty by sale of annuities to the bank of England, at 4 per cent, charged on the duties on coals and culm, &c. the bank fund was increased by £70,000 interest on £1,750,000 advanced on those duties, redeemable by parliament. And the bank hereupon thought it prudent to declare a reduction of the yearly dividend on their capital stock from 6 to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, from lady-day 1728.

By this same statute a million of the national debt was paid off out of the sinking-fund, viz. £500,000 to the South-sea company, which was to be paid off by sinking so much of the undistributed stock forfeited by the late directors, &c. in the year 1720; which was to go to pay the company's debts. Hereupon that company sunk £250,000 from the capital stock, and the like sum from South-sea annuity stock.

And £500,000 was in like manner paid to the bank of England, being part of the two millions added to their capital by an act of the 3d of King George I, whereby the total of their capital stock was reduced to £4,875,027 : 17 : 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

1728.—By a preliminary convention between Great Britain and Spain, signed at the Pardo near Madrid on the 6th of March 1728, it was agreed, on the one hand, that his Britannic majesty should withdraw his fleets from the coasts of Spain, and from the Spanish West-Indies; and that the disputes concerning the contraband trade, and other causes of complaint, which the Spaniards may have in relation to the ship Prince Fre-

derick, and the restoration of prizes taken on each side, should be decided at a future congress.

On the other hand, Spain agreed immediately to raise the blockade of Gibraltar; to order the ship *Prince Frederick*, with her cargo, to be delivered to the South-sea company's agents at La Vera Cruz; and to restore the commerce of that company with Spanish America, agreeable to the assiento contract.

By a treaty of peace and commerce between the king of Great Britain and the emperor of Morocco, signed at Mequinez, it was now stipulated,

I) That all Moors and Jews, subjects of Morocco, should be allowed a free traffic for thirty days in the city of Gibraltar and at the island of Minorca, though not to reside at either place; but to depart with their effects, without molestation, to any part of the Morocco dominions.

II) On the other hand, the British subjects in Barbary should not be obliged to appear before the *cadi* or the justices of the country, but only before the governor of the place: and the British consuls are to take cognizance of, and adjust, the differences they may have with the natives of the country.

III) The menial servants of British subjects, though natives of the country, either Moors or Jews, are exempted from taxes of all kinds.

IV) British subjects, taken on board foreign ships by the subjects of Morocco, shall immediately be set at liberty, and sent to Gibraltar.

V) Provisions may be freely bought, and other necessaries, for his Britannic majesty's fleets, or for his city of Gibraltar, in any port of the emperor of Morocco, at the market prices, and be shipped off without paying custom.

These concessions from that barbarous people are extremely honourable to Britain; but they will be no longer kept than we are masters at sea, and are in possession of the most important fortress and port of Gibraltar.

About this time the colonies of South and North Carolina were grievously afflicted with invasions from the Indians in their neighbourhood, whereby the people were unable, even with what assistance they could procure from neighbouring colonies, to withstand those savages. And the proprietors being unwilling to take upon themselves the expense of this Indian war, the deputies of those colonies humbly besought the king to take them under his protection. Whereupon, the duke of Beaufort, the lord Craven, Sir John Colleton, James Bertie, Dodington Greville, Henry Bertie, John Cotton, and Joseph Blakes, Esquires, Mary Dawson, and Elizabeth Moore, being the representatives of the original proprietors of seven eighth parts of those two provinces, either in their own right, or in trust, declaring, by petition to his majesty, their willingness to surrender their charters to the crown for a valuable con-

sideration, an act of parliament was thereupon passed, in the 2d year of King George II, for establishing an agreement with seven of the proprietors of Carolina for the surrender of their title and interest in that province to his majesty. In consideration whereof the said seven proprietors were to be paid the sum of £17,500, being £2500 for each seventh part, and £5000 more for the arrears of quit-rents, &c. due to them. Thus for so small a sum as £22,500 were seven eighth parts of those fine provinces made regal governments from the 1st of June 1729. And as Lord Carteret chose to retain the other remaining eighth part of Carolina in his own right, a clause in the act of parliament reserves to him, his heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, all such estate, right, title, &c. to one undivided eighth part or share of the said provinces, and one eighth part of all arrears of quit-rents, &c. thereof. Notwithstanding which, the government of the whole is hereby made entirely regal. And in this regal state Carolina, under two separate governors, councils, and assemblies, has wonderfully flourished and increased in trade and commerce, and has extended its plantations farther westward. Proper supplies and relief having been sent thither by the crown, the neighbouring Indians were reduced to live in a peaceable condition till very lately, when also they have again been reduced to reasonable terms, after much bloodshed.

The South-sea company this year sent out their twenty-three remaining ships for the whale fishery, and returned with only the blubber and fins of eighteen whales; which was undoubtedly a losing voyage.

This year the British house of commons presented to the king a particular account of the national debts contracted before christmas 1716, and how much thereof has been since discharged by the sinking fund, though till now but in its infancy; which debt so discharged amounted to £2,698,416:9:7½ since christmas 1716. That by the several reductions, from 6 to 5, and from 5 now to 4 per cent, on the greatest part of the public debts, so great savings of interest have been made, that the sinking fund may now be estimated to be about £1,200,000 per annum; and will be every year increasing from the farther savings of the interest of the remaining debts from time to time, as they shall be paid off. This increase of the sinking fund from £400,000 to about £1,200,000 (since midsummer 1727) being in the hands of the government, and applicable from time to time to the discharge of the principal, makes a gain and profit to the public, equal to the discharge of one third of the principal debt; so that the additional £800,000 to the sinking fund, if valued at twenty-five years purchase, at which rate all annuities are now currently sold, makes a real profit to the public of twenty millions. And if, notwithstanding the many difficulties this nation has laboured under, by an unnatural rebellion, and by the many heinous plots and conspiracies since formed, for overturning the religion

and liberties of our country, and notwithstanding the embroiled condition of the affairs of Europe, we have been able to diminish the national debt so much already, what may we not hope for in regard to a speedy and sensible discharge of it for the future? Upon this representation we shall only in brief remark, as many have before done, that, notwithstanding all such difficulties, as are above enumerated, much more might surely have been done for increasing the sinking fund, by absolutely preserving it inviolable; though it be allowed, that it would have been attended with many and great difficulties, considering that a second rebellion, and two very expensive wars, have happened since that representation was made. What is past needs not to be enlarged on: but surely hereafter, especially in times of peace, a determined national frugality ought zealously to be cultivated\*; and it is earnestly to be hoped and wished, that, in order to increase the sinking fund, the public might be relieved by a rational reduction of the salaries of many useless offices and employments in the revenue, &c. the fee-simple whereof would amount to a greater sum than perhaps many may apprehend, were a strict inquiry made thereinto.

In a vindication of the island of Jamaica at this time, from certain aspersions on the conduct of the planters and of their assembly, and pleading for some favours from the legislature of Great Britain, it was computed, that the trade of that island employs 300 sail of ships, and about 6000 seamen; and that the very duties on the imports from thence amount to near £100,000 per annum. That there are eight fine harbours in it, beside many coves and bays where ships may safely ride: there are also 84 rivers which discharge into the sea, and seven times as many lesser rivers and springs which run into them. That its principal productions, besides sugars, are, cotton, ginger, pimento, mahogany, logwood, and indigo. That very little of the four last commodities are imported from the rest of the British plantations: so that, but for Jamaica, we should be obliged to purchase them of the French, Dutch, and other nations. That cotton is necessary to work up with wool in many of our manufactures, &c. Ginger is chiefly exported, though great quantities are likewise used at home. Their pimento lessens the consumption of spices, which are only to be had of the Dutch at their own rates. That indigo, logwood, fustic, &c. are used by dyers, and are absolutely necessary in many of our manufactures; and that, before we had those commodities of our own, we paid five times the prices for them we now do, and for some of them more. That, before our West-India plantations were settled, we paid the Portuguese from £4 to £5 per cwt. for muscovado sugars, now sold from 32s to 35s, and

\* Non intelligunt homines quantum vectigal sit parsimonia! Ciceronis Paradoxa 6.

People do not consider how great a revenue economy is!

above L5 per cwt. for ginger, now commonly sold at 22/6. That our dyers wares were bought of the Spaniards, to whom we paid for logwood from L100 to L130 per ton, which may now be had at L9 per ton; and other goods used in dying, proportionably. So that, by having those plantations, we not only save so much as was formerly paid for those commodities to foreigners, but we are also able to furnish other nations therewith; and our manufacturers, by having them at less prices than they formerly had them, are enabled to sell their commodities proportionably cheaper, which is undoubtedly a very great advantage to the nation. [*Boyer's Political State of Great Britain*, V. 25, for February 1728.]

This vindication, or survey of the benefits of Jamaica and our other West-India colonies to their mother-country, places them in so advantageous a light, and gives also so clear, though succinct, a view of our commerce with them, that it well merits a place in this work.

This year, the Danish East-India company, residing at Copenhagen, published proposals for a new subscription to be taken at Altona near Hamburgh, for enlarging their antient capital stock.

I) ' The new subscribers to be equally entitled to all the benefits and privileges which the old members possess, in respect of the trade, shipping, forts, settlements, revenues, houses, and other effects whatever.

II) ' The old capital, consisting of 250,000 rixdollars, divided into 250 shares, each being of 1000 rixdollars, to retain likewise equal benefits with the new subscribers.

III) ' The company, after this union with the new subscribers, were, in their joint capacity, to pay off their entire debts, consisting of 160,000 rixdollars; but the old proprietors were not to be entitled to any dividend till the year 1733.

IV) ' The actions, or shares, of the new subscribers to consist of 1,000 rixdollars each, and the half shares to be 500 rixdollars: for each transfer to pay two rixdollars to the company, and half a one to the poor.

V) ' The company's creditors may take new actions thereof for the debts due to them.

VI) ' The king, by his octroy, declares, that the shares shall not be liable to any seizure or stop, upon any account whatever\*.

VII) ' The money arising by new subscriptions to be wholly employed for sending out ships to Tranquebar†, Bengal, and China.

VIII) ' The four additional or new directors may be all foreigners; and ten shares to be the qualification stock of every director. Every single share shall have one vote in the general courts; and a proprie-

\* The reader needs not be told, that Denmark is an absolute monarchy. A.

† Tranquebar is their own fort on the Coromandel coast. A.



'tor of 20 shares shall have 20 votes; and none shall have any more votes than 20, although their shares be ever so many.

IX) ' If any two directors shall be dissatisfied with the conduct of the other directors, they may summon a general court to acquaint the company therewith.

X) ' The general courts have plenary power to do whatever they shall judge convenient for the advantage of the company.

XI) ' The new shares to be subscribed shall not exceed 2250, i. e. in the whole; and the new or additional stock shall not exceed 2,250,000 rixdollars.'

N. B. There were 25 other articles of lesser importance.

To these proposals the old company, for removing any objections which might be made in respect to their circumstances, added, that they had very valuable effects, such as, the town of Tranquebar, a very important place, with 200 pieces of cannon, besides ammunition, and a yearly income of 10,000 crowns, and also several duties and revenues, increasing every year in proportion to the increase of inhabitants. That they also had the castle of Danneburgh on the rich coast of Coromandel, conveniently situated for trade, and particularly for pearls and diamonds; also Porto-novo, on the same coast; two ships, with their cargoes, now at sea, bound to Tranquebar; and some other ships and factories, &c. From all which particulars, a nearly exact state of the Danish East-India company's circumstances and commerce may be gathered; not much, however, to their advantage.

There arrived at London, from foreign ports, between christmas 1727 and christmas 1728, 1839 British ships; 21 3foreign ships; and 6837 coasters; being in all 8889 vessels. The number is considerably increased in later years.

By an act of parliament, in the second year of King George II, for raising the sum of £1,250,000 by sale of annuities to the bank of England, &c. the bank advanced that sum to the public at 4 per cent interest, charged on the surplusses of the fund of lottery 1714, redeemable from midsummer 1730, by payments of not less than £500,000 at a time. Yet this low interest obliged the bank to reduce their dividend from 3 to 2½ per cent at michaelmas 1730, for that half year\*.

A statute was made this year for regulating the watermen on the river Thames.

A new act was this year made for the better preservation of his majesty's woods in America, and for the encouragement of the importation of naval stores from thence; and to encourage the importation

\* The account inserted by Mr. Allardyce in the appendix to his *Address to the proprietors of the bank*, dates the reduction of the bank's dividend from nine to five per cent per annum in March 1730, and the further reduction to five and a half in September of the same year. And in the two following years (1731 and 1732) he also states the March dividend at six, and the September one at five and a half, per cent per annum; at which later rate it continued till March 1747. M.



of masts, yards, and bowsprits, from Scotland ; which, after reciting a former statute for this purpose, enacts, ' that from the 29th of September 1729, no person in the colonies of Nova-Scotia, New-Hampshire, the province of Maine, Massachuset's-bay, Rhode-island, and Providence-plantation, the Naraganset-country, or King's-province, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, or any other province in America, now belonging, or that shall hereafter belong, to the crown of Great Britain, shall presume to cut, fell, or destroy, any white pine trees, fit for masting the royal navy ; (except only such as are the property of private persons) notwithstanding the said trees do or may grow within the limits of any township laid out, or to be laid out hereafter, without his majesty's royal licence first obtained. And whereas King William and Queen Mary's charter, in the third year of their reign, granted to the province of the Massachuset's-bay, reserved to themselves and successors all trees of the diameter of 24 inches and upwards at 12 inches from the ground, growing in that province, on any ground not before granted to any private persons ; in order, therefor, to make that reservation more effectual, it was now enacted, that no person within the said province shall so cut or destroy any such white pine trees, on any land not granted to private persons before the 7th of October 1690 ; under the penalties of the act of the 8th of George I. And new and more moderate premiums are granted for the masts, yards, bowsprits, good tar, pitch, and turpentine, produced in, and imported from, America : and such naval stores imported shall repay those premiums when re-exported. A premium is also enacted for the importation of masts, yards, and bowsprits, from Scotland ; where ' (as this act sets forth) ' there are in sundry parts great store of pine and fir trees : ' but so very difficult to bring down to sea-ports ; as has rendered that part of this act, and of that of the 8th of King George I, hitherto ineffectual \*.

1729.—This year the king of Denmark gave the new Danish East-India company a grant of an exclusive trade for forty years. His charter gives the royal sanction to the regulations made by that company in the preceding year, and promises that their stock shall be exempted from duties, and also that the stock belonging to foreigners, though subjects of states with whom he may be at war, shall not be seized on any pretence whatever.

At length, in November 1729, was concluded the famous treaty of Seville, between Great Britain, France, and Spain, for peace, union, friendship, and mutual defence, whereby they mutually guarantee each other's dominions, and all the rights and privileges of their commerce, in all parts of the world : each potentate for this end to furnish

\* If they cannot be carried as masts, they may be carried as boards. Wherever men can walk, they can carry boards. *M.*

8000 foot and 4000 horse; or ships of war, and transports, or else money instead of either.

III) The British and French courts having alleged, that in the treaty of Vienna, in the year 1275, there were divers clauses which infringed the articles of several treaties of commerce, his catholic majesty declares, that he never meant to grant, by virtue of the said treaty, any privilege contrary to those treaties.

IV, V) All necessary orders shall be dispatched on both sides for the execution of former treaties of commerce, both with the English and French nations.

VI, VII, VIII) Commissaries shall be appointed on all sides, in four months time, to examine and decide what concerns the ships and effects taken at sea, and the respective allegations relating to abuses in commerce, as well in Europe as in America, who shall finish their commission within three years, or sooner if possible.

IX, X, XI, XII, XIII) These articles relate to the introduction of Spanish garrisons into Leghorn, Porto-Ferraio, and Placentia, to secure the eventual succession of Don Carlos to Tuscany, Parma, and Placentia; all the contracting parties agreeing to guarantee his succession.

XIV) The states-general of the United provinces are invited to accede to this treaty; as they soon after did in this same month and year.

By the two separate articles of this treaty it was more expressly stipulated, for the greater exactness, that the treaties of peace and commerce at Utrecht, between Great Britain and Spain, in which are comprised the treaty of 1667 and of 1715, as also the assiento contract of 1713, and its farther explanation in 1716, shall from this day, even during the examination by the commissaries, remain in their force and vigour; for which end the catholic king shall dispatch his cédulas to his viceroys, &c. in America as well as in Europe, as shall also his Britannic majesty to his governors, &c. for the release of all ships and merchandize; and particularly the South-sea company's ship Prince Frederick and her cargo shall be immediately restored.

The states-general of the United provinces were to furnish only 4000 foot and 1000 horse; and the other allies were to guarantee the abolition of the Ostend East-India company, &c.; and the catholic king engages, that entire satisfaction shall be given to the Dutch for their grievances, as well in the West-Indies as in Europe, and to re-establish their commerce, agreeable to former treaties: and, lastly, to grant them all the commercial privileges enjoyed by the nations most favoured.

The South-sea company's 23 ships this year went out on the whale fishery; and, one of them being lost, the other 22 ships brought home 27½ whales; which was still a losing trade; the company's net loss by this single year's trade, besides wear and tear, being £6904 : 8 : 4.

This year the Dutch East-India company obtained of the states-general a prolongation of their exclusive trade to India for 21 years beyond their present term: for which privilege they paid into the treasury of the republic 3,600,000 gilders, (about £330,000 sterling.) Their power, pomp, and wealth, in India, and more especially in the island of Java, at this time equalled those of some considerable monarchs.

In the province of Pennsylvania great improvements were constantly making in commerce, shipping, and agriculture; many ships and sloopes are built at Philadelphia, Newcastle, &c. which they mostly dispose of to our sugar colonies, and the rest they use in carrying their own product, consisting of cask-staves, lumber, pork, peas, flour, bisket, &c. in exchange for sugar, rum, and Spanish money. Great numbers of German settlers are annually adding to the population of this already-populous province, as well as others from Britain and Ireland. The following is a list of people arrived there from Europe in this year.

|  |   |   |       |
|--|---|---|-------|
| English and Welsh passengers and servants,   | - | - | 267   |
| Scottish servants  | - | - | 43    |
| Irish passengers and servants  | - | - | 1,155 |
| Palatine passengers  | - | - | 243   |
| And, in Newcastle government alone, there arrived this year, of passengers and servants, mostly from Ireland, (by reason of rack-rents there, as it is said) about | - | - | 4,500 |
| Total arrived in this year only  | - | - | 6,208 |

No marvel, then, that this province is in so thriving a state; its constitution being moreover, so excellent, and the encouragement afforded to new comers, by absolute freedom, liberty of conscience, lenity of laws, gentle taxes, &c. such as really to be a pattern for all other governments on the continent.

As party rage ran very high at this time, the friends of the ministry found themselves obliged to prove, by facts, what was before generally known to be undoubtedly true, that Britain was then in a thriving condition.

By the low interest of money, thereby evidently demonstrating a greater plenty of money than formerly.

This plenty of money has raised the price of lands, from 20 and 21 years, to 25, 26, and 27 years purchase. An evident proof that there are more persons able and ready to purchase land than formerly.

Another clear evidence of our increased wealth in Britain, is, the great sums of late expended in inclosing and improving lands, and in opening mines.

Jewels, plate, and other rich moveables, are much plentier than formerly.

The value of our woollen goods exported in six years, ending at christmas 1727, exceeds the value of the six preceding years, by £475,000. And the like may be said of the increase of our exportations of coals, lead, tin, and lead-ore.

There is the like increase of foreign goods exported, which in the three last years exceeded in value the three preceding years by £535,000.

Lastly, there will be found an increase in the tonnage of the shipping of England in the last six years, beyond what it was in the preceding six years of 238,000 tons. All which, when taken together, are undoubted marks of increasing wealth, and of the general balance of trade in our favour.

As for the only two objections hereunto, the course of exchange between us and Holland running to our disadvantage, and our great paper-credit: the first is to be accounted for by Amsterdam being the center of exchanges to and from all parts of Europe, and particularly between Britain and Holland, and thence between us and most other nations. Consequently the great sums of interest in our public funds, chiefly remitted by way of Amsterdam, and foreigners frequently selling out of our funds, as the interest thereon becomes gradually lower. The great importations of corn in years of scarcity, from Dantzic, Hamburgh, and the Netherlands, which, in the single year 1728, amounted to £800,000 paid for by the way of Holland. The balance we pay to the northern countries for our most necessary naval stores, &c. mostly remitted by the way of Amsterdam. These and such reasons may well account for the course of exchange running retrograde between us and Holland; which therefor cannot be a just or certain rule to determine the balance of trade, or whether the wealth of Britain be increasing or decreasing. Lastly, the increase of paper-credit proves quite the contrary of what the objectors intend, since it is not the cause, but the demonstrable effect and proof of national riches.

1730.—The English East-India company's term for the redemption of their capital, and of their exclusive trade, being near its expiration, (viz. on three year's notice from lady-day 1733) a powerful and strenuous opposition to its renewal was now raised by certain merchants and gentlemen, who, foreseeing that the company would apply to the legislature for a prolongation of their exclusive privileges, determined to be beforehand with them; and therefor, in February 1730 [N. S.] they presented to the house of commons their petition and proposals, wherein they offered to advance £3,200,000 to redeem the fund of the company, by five several payments, the last to be at lady-day 1733, to be allowed an interest of 4 per cent till that term, and only 2 per cent after it; provided,

‘ I) That they might be incorporated, and in all respects vested with all the exclusive privileges and trade of that company : yet so as not to trade in one joint stock or in their corporate capacity ; but that the trade should be free and open to all his majesty’s subjects, who should pay one per cent of the value of their exports to India, in consideration of their taking out a licence from this proposed corporation. Provided also,

‘ II) That this trade be solely carried on from the port of London. And

‘ III) That the proposed company’s term be thirty-one years, and to be redeemed on three years notice.

‘ IV) That, moreover, for enabling the proposed corporation to defray the expense of forts and settlements in India, as well as the preservation and enlargement of the trade, they may be empowered to levy a duty of 5 per cent on the gross value of all the merchandize which shall be imported from India.’

The benefits to the public by this proposal they set forth, in brief, to be,

‘ I) That by receiving but 2 per cent interest, an annuity of L92,000 would be added to the sinking fund, which, at 25 years purchase, was worth L2,500,000 to the public.

‘ II) That, as laying open the trade to Africa is agreed to be attended with great national advantages, so thus laying open the trade to East-India (or reducing it into a kind of regulated company) will be attended with the following advantages, viz. it will necessarily occasion a larger exportation of our own product and manufactures to India.

‘ III) It will employ a much greater number of ships and seamen.

‘ IV) It will greatly lower the prices of all East-India commodities consumed at home.

‘ V) It will enable us to supply foreign markets, cheaper and in greater quantities, with Indian merchandize ; whereby some new branches of traffic may be gained and others preserved, more especially in Africa and America, and also in some parts of Europe\*.

‘ VI) It will necessarily advance the customs and excise, and thereby lessen the national debt, &c.

‘ VIII) They allege, (but give no particular reason for such their allegation) ‘ that great advantages may accrue by employing our shipping in freights, from one part of India to another, more than the present company has ever been able to do.

‘ IX) It will prevent persons, acquainted with the trade to India, from being under the necessity, for want of employment here, of

\* Here the proposers should have been more explicit. A.



‘ seeking it in foreign nations, and even will bring home those who are already engaged that way.’ \*

These were the plausible and principal arguments made use of to the legislature; and they were more abundantly amplified and improved in printed pamphlets and newspapers, which carried them, as is usually the case, much beyond rational probability.

Their inducements for alluring subscribers to this scheme, were,

I) Certain interest from the public, of 4 per cent for the first two years, and 2 per cent afterwards.

II) The additional annual profit arising from the proposed licences.

III) The 5 per cent on all goods imported would bring a considerable surplus over and above the expense of supporting the forts and factories, since (as they alleged) the present company’s forts and settlements do, one with another, more than answer their own expense. And even though the proposed company should be obliged to pay the present company a sum of money for their forts and settlements; † yet in a few years there would a farther annual profit accrue, arising from the duties. For,

IV) Even supposing the trade, under this proposed company, should not increase, (as however they were confident it would) beyond the amount of three millions yearly, at the public sales; yet 5 per cent thereon would yield £150,000 per annum, which makes £86,000 more than will complete the annuity or interest of 4 per cent. Wherefor,

V) It may be concluded, that the annual dividend will not at any time be less than 5 to 6 per cent to the subscribers; since, as the exportations and importations shall increase, in like proportion will the dividends necessarily increase.

Yet, notwithstanding all these plausible reasonings without doors, and all that their friends could urge within doors, the house of commons rejected their petition, because, it was certainly, at least, hazardous to turn the East-India trade into a new channel; it was uncertain, whether the proposed subscription would readily fill in due time, or whether their flattering expectations would answer, either with respect to the subscribers, or to the nation; or whether the customs might not be diminished instead of being increased; or whether by the new method of a regulated trade, the nation’s general commerce to India might not in some degree be hurt and diminished? For who can foresee all the advantages which other European nations, trading to India, would be able to gain over us by this alteration, or the hurt our trade might receive from the Indian princes, &c. To quit therefor a present certainty for a fu-

\* This refers to those, who were engaged in the Ostend and Swedish East-India companies. A.

† Could the proposers make any doubt, whether they were to pay the former company for their property? A.



ture (though plausible) uncertainty, was not judged safe nor prudent. The opposition, however, drew from the present company very considerable advantages to the public, by occasioning them to give up one per cent of the interest payable on their capital of £3,200,000, and moreover to pay for the benefit of the public £200,000 for the service of the current year, over and above the abatement of their interest from 5 to 4 per cent, or from £160,000 to £128,000 per annum, whereby £32,000 per annum would be immediately added to the sinking fund, which the company nevertheless were legally entitled to for six years longer. While the bill was depending in parliament, abundance of anonymous letters and essays were published in pamphlets and newspapers, against exclusive companies in general, and more especially against this company's exclusive trade, in particular: all the arguments which had been advanced for above 100 years past, (of which we have largely treated in this work) against monopolies in this and other mercantile companies, being on this occasion republished, with some few new improvements. ' They were for having the government to take the support of the forts, factories, embassies, &c. in India, into their own hands, out of the large customs on the India trade, which should thenceforth remain free and open to all British subjects. For' (say they) ' the more free and open that trade is, the more profitable it will be to the nation. And though it may be true, that laying the East-India trade open, would lessen the profit of individuals in that trade, by their striving to outdo and undersell one another; yet the gain to the nation would' (in their opinion) ' be vastly greater, as the emulous private adventurers, by thrusting themselves into new ports and countries, in Arabia, Persia, India, China, &c. would undoubtedly occasion the exportation of much more of our manufactures and product than the company can do. And on the other hand, a joint-stock company can never trade so frugally and advantageously, either for themselves or for the nation, being in fact but one buyer and one seller; who, moreover, manage their trade with a pride and expence more becoming the state of kings than of merchants; and their governors and agents in India live like princes\*. They also expect to be followed by the markets, and therefor do not stir from their warehouses. Whereas, on the contrary, private traders would follow the markets, would push into every creek and corner, and would narrowly look into the conduct of their agents in India. That the abolition of the present company would, moreover, destroy the pernicious practice of stock-jobbing, so fatal to persons and families. That when almost all the maritime nations of Europe are now running into this trade, which will doubtless diminish our own commerce thither, it seems the most effectual means

\* And so they would doubtless do under a regulated company, or if they were under the king's immediate authority, being at so great a distance from Europe. A.

‘ for driving them out of this trade to lay it open to all our people.’ These, and many other arguments, (some of which were at least inconclusive, if not fallacious) were keenly urged, both within and without doors, and were supported by many eminent merchants. Lastly, for farther corroborating the opposition to the bill for prolonging the East-India company’s privileges, three several petitions were presented to the house of commons; the first from the merchants, traders, &c. of London, in behalf of themselves and all other his majesty’s subjects; the second from those of Bristol; and the third from those of Liverpool: all to the same effect, viz, against confirming the exclusive trade to India to the present company alone: and, for obliging that company to grant licences to the rest of his majesty’s subjects to trade thither, under proper terms and conditions: also praying to be heard by their counsel at the bar of the house, against passing the bill: which petitions were all rejected.

On the other hand, it is but justice to the present East-India company, to exhibit the principal points urged by them in their own behalf, viz.

At present it seems to be agreed on all sides, that the East-India trade is a beneficial one to this nation, and consequently is necessary to be preserved. But the main question is, which is the best method to preserve it to us, viz. whether by a company vested with exclusive privileges and regulations, such as the legislature shall from time to time direct; or, whether the trade shall be left quite open to every adventurer, who shall pay for a licence from this company?

It is but too probable, that the present great opposition to the company proceeds, in a great measure, from the great gains which they make: for their enemies are forced to go back almost forty years to search out former mismanagements; having nothing to allege against their present conduct.

The company at present employ a vast stock in trade, their sales amounting to about three millions yearly. And the customs accruing to the public are prodigiously great, and answer the appropriations made of them by parliament better than most other duties; they bringing in net money, clear of all drawbacks and debentures, three hundred thousand pounds yearly. Would it then be prudent in the legislature to let those customs fall without a certainty of at least as much in the room of them?

The forts and factories at present cost the company £300,000 yearly; and doubtless the government could not maintain them for so little. Those forts and other buildings are unquestionably the property of the company, who actually purchased them of the old company, and are of very great value. Who, then, shall set an equitable price on them? What certainty have the government, when they are in their hands, that

the proposed open trade will be always sufficient to maintain so vast an expence of customs and forts as £600,000 yearly? For, as every man is, by the proposed scheme, left at liberty, (and will doubtless make use of it) to trade or not to trade thither, as it may suit his interest, it may happen, that one year there may go fifty ships for India, and another year perhaps not five. And these being all separate traders, the government can have no certainty nor security from them, nor indeed from any other but an incorporated body, who have a great deal to lose, and who are able to bear the ill fortune of some particular years trading, without presently laying it aside.

By the competition of the separate traders in India, for the sake of dispatch, the prices of goods there would be raised so high, as at length not to be worth buying. And, for the like reason, at home they would so undersell each other, till the goods would not be worth selling; which was the case for the small time that the two companies (the old and the new ones) and the separate traders contended against each other; whereby they all did very much hurt to the trade.

An united company will always be more diligent to watch the encroachments and attempts of other European nations in India than separate traders will or can be, whose views naturally are contracted within the narrow circle of their own private interest alone.

Though the company have a claim to a perpetuity in the trade by the act 10 *Ann. c. 28*, yet some doubts having arisen respecting the certainty of their right, because that act only repeals the provisos in former acts, which directed that the privileges of trade should cease when the fund should be redeemed, but does not explicitly enact a perpetuity of this trade to the company, in the same terms as the act of that same session expressly does in favour of the South-sea company; and the company, being unwilling that their title to the trade (however strong) should prove the occasion of disputes hereafter, they are therefor content to take up with a temporary certainty in lieu thereof, and moreover, to give the public almost £400,000 for the same, by giving £200,000 in money, and farther consenting that their annuity of 5 per cent, which is not redeemable till the year 1736, be now reduced to 4 per cent; whereby they lose an annuity of £32,000 for six years to come, valued £192,000\*.

Some other less important arguments were advanced on both sides; but as there is in reality nothing new which can be hereafter advanced on this truly important subject, on either side, now and formerly so fully explained, we shall hereafter spare ourselves the needless trouble of enlarging thereon, in any future controversy concerning the East-India

\* The value of this concession is greater than is here stated by six years interest on the first defalcation of £32,000, five years on the second, and so on of the others. *M.*

commerce ; after assuring the reader, that the author of this work has studied impartiality in this, as in other parts, of the work, as much as possible. To conclude, the legislature passed the bill in the company's favour, intituled, an Act for reducing the annuity or fund of the united East-India company, and for ascertaining their right of trade to the East-Indies, and the continuance of their corporation for that purpose, upon the terms therein mentioned ; whereby, after a full recital of former statutes and charters, the company agrees, and it is enacted, that their present yearly fund of £160,000 be reduced to £128,000, (or from 5 to 4 per cent) from michaelmas 1730 ; in consideration whereof, and of £200,000, to be paid by them for the public service of this present year, 1730, all their exclusive privileges of trade to the East-Indies are continued and prolonged from lady-day 1736, to lady-day 1766, and three years notice then to be given ; in all, including the said three years notice, to lady-day 1769, being 33 years ; when, on repayment of their entire capital of £3,200,000, their exclusive privileges of trade shall cease and determine. Yet, nevertheless, the company shall continue as a corporation forever, to enjoy the East-India trade in common with all other subjects. There was in this act one single clause only, of any importance, which had not been in any former statute relating to this company, and arose from a doubt maliciously and unaccountably started by the company's enemies, viz. whether the three years notice should be fully expired before they lose their exclusive privileges. That clause therefore enacted, ' that upon the expiration of the said three years, and re-payment, &c. as above, their exclusive right shall cease.'

The company, moreover, at any time, on one year's notice after lady-day 1736, might be paid off their whole capital, by any payments not less than £500,000 at a time : and so on, from time to time, on such yearly notices by parliament. The company were hereby likewise debarred from possessing in Great Britain, lands, tenements, &c. exceeding £10,000 yearly rent. Lastly, two general provisos were added, for saving the privileges, &c. of the South-sea and Levant companies. In consequence of the reduction of their fund, the company reduced their dividend from *eight* to *seven* per cent per annum at christmas 1732.

The royal African company declining more and more, so as not to be able to support their forts and factories on the coast of Africa, and the trade being thereby laid open, so as to endanger them, the parliament this year granted £10,000 for that purpose, by an act for raising £550,000 by exchequer-bills, &c. The sum of £10,000 was granted annually till the year 1744, when, by reason of the war with France and Spain, £20,000 were granted for that end. In each of the two following years £10,000 were granted for the same purpose, but nothing was granted for the year 1747.

The south-sea company's remaining 22 Greenland ships brought home 12 whales this year; and their net loss by this year's fishery was L8921 5/9, beside wear and tear.

The French East-India company's trade by this time was become so considerable, that, instead of one ship from India once in two years, there arrived four ships from thence in this year.

Yet so much superior was the English East-India company's trade, that, in the spring of this same year, there sailed no fewer than 17 ships from India.

In the British American provinces of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland, there were about this time found mines of iron-stone, which they soon after learned to smelt down into pigs and sows, and then to draw them out by flatting mills into bars. They have also found lead; and they had before found copper in New-York.

The South-sea company's great ship the Prince Frederick, which had been long detained at La Vera Cruz, by the differences between Great Britain and Spain, arrived this year in the Thames with 400,000 dollars, or Spanish pieces of eight, in specie, 190,000 lib. of cochineal\*, 47,000 lib. weight of indigo, and 167 tons of logwood, besides what came in private trade; supposed altogether to be worth L350,000 sterling.

We may here, for once at least, present our readers with a list of the chief exportations and importations for the single month of May, in the year 1730, from London only, viz.

Exported.—Woollen cloths, long, short, and Spanish, 5357 pieces

|                       |   |   |      |   |
|-----------------------|---|---|------|---|
| Bays, Colchester, &c. | - | - | 6990 | — |
|-----------------------|---|---|------|---|

|                       |   |   |        |   |
|-----------------------|---|---|--------|---|
| Stuffs, druggets, &c. | - | - | 24,484 | — |
|-----------------------|---|---|--------|---|

|                     |   |   |      |   |
|---------------------|---|---|------|---|
| Perpets and serges, | - | - | 4108 | — |
|---------------------|---|---|------|---|

|                     |   |   |      |   |
|---------------------|---|---|------|---|
| Dozens and kerfies, | - | - | 1879 | — |
|---------------------|---|---|------|---|

|       |   |   |      |        |
|-------|---|---|------|--------|
| Hats, | - | - | 2028 | dozens |
|-------|---|---|------|--------|

|       |   |   |      |             |
|-------|---|---|------|-------------|
| Hose, | - | - | 9368 | dozen pairs |
|-------|---|---|------|-------------|

|                     |   |   |        |       |
|---------------------|---|---|--------|-------|
| Flannel and cotton, | — | - | 53,053 | yards |
|---------------------|---|---|--------|-------|

frise, 7858 yards—gartering, 774 gross—leather, 2290 cwt.—block tin, 1036 cwt.—wrought pewter, 499½ cwt.—lead, 184 fodder, each of 19

\* Two physicians, to whom the author of this work shewed the cochineal in the company's vaults, were perfectly satisfied, that the insect, which produces it, is the same with our British lady-bird; and that its superior excellence was acquired purely by the insect feeding on the fine red juice or sap of the Mexico shrub called the prickly pear, agreeable to what had been asserted by divers authors. *A.*

The prickly pear is a plant which grows spontaneously and luxuriantly every where in the West-

Indies. Its juice is of a rich crimson colour, which may be used with a pen or a pencil for writing or drawing; but it fades in a few days. However, Mr. Long [in his *Hist. of Jamaica*, V. iii, p. 731] says, that Mr. Riz, a gentleman of Kingston, produced from it a dye-stuff superior to the cochineal of Mexico. If that can be effected on a considerable scale, the prickly pear (now a nuisance, or at best a bad sort of fence) may become one of the most profitable of the tropical plants. *M.*



cwt.—ditto lead per cwt. 2746 cwt.—ditto in shot, 847 cwt.—alum, 1275 cwt.—copperas, 4033 cwt.—tobacco, 866,163 lib.—calicoes, 76,847 pieces—gold watches, 47—silver watches, 113.—wrought plate, 972 ounces. (Besides 339,353 ounces of foreign silver, and 36,294 ounces of foreign gold.)

Imported in the port of London.—Wine in casks (chiefly pipes or butts) 4299 casks—ditto from Leghorn, 459 chests—wine Rhenish, 1019 aums, each of 40 gallons—brandy from Dunkirk alone, besides brandy from Holland, 24,687 gallons—rum from the British American colonies, 6327 gallons—sugar from ditto, 1421 hogheads—rice from Carolina only, 3025 hogheads—Spanish wool, in bags, 1144 bags—indigo, chiefly from Spain and our own colonies, 57,784 lib.—hemp, from the East country, 1160 cwt.—thrown silk from Italy, 31,218 lib.—raw silk, 3441 lib.—coffee from Turkey only, 1781 cwt.—oil from Gallipoli only, 390 tons—Holland cloth, or fine linen from Holland, 66,286 ells—ditto from Hamburgh and Bremen, 1,232,209 ells—Irish linen, 179,114 yards—linen-yarn from Hamburgh, 73,450 lib.—coffee from Mocha, 5000 bales.

The whale fishery on the coast of New-England was prosperous this year; and the rice raised in Carolina (now a very thriving colony) appears to have increased; as by a clause in an act of parliament in the preceding session [3 *Geo. II, c. 29*] for granting liberty to carry rice, &c. they were permitted to ship it to any place in Europe south of Cape Finisterre, without first being landed in England, or being made an enumerated commodity\*, whereby the coasts of Spain and Portugal in the Ocean, and of Spain and France in the Mediterranean, besides Italy and the gulf of Venice, and all the Spanish and Portuguese isles, are open to them. Provided, however, that it be all carried in British ships, navigated as by the acts of navigation, and no other commodity be so carried but rice only.

The same privilege was extended to the rice of Georgia, by an act [8 *Geo. II, c. 19*.] And, in consequence of these judicious indulgences, the British plantation rice has supplanted those of Verona and Egypt, wherever they have come in competition.

On the 29th of May the king of France established the following regulations for his royal council of commerce.

‘ That it be composed of the duke of Orleans, the cardinal de Fleury, &c. and meet every 15 days, or oftener, as the king shall direct.

‘ The keeper of the seals, the secretaries of state for foreign affairs, and for the marine, and the comptroller-general of the finances, shall make

\* Rice was thought incapable of bearing the expense of being landed in a British port, and then shipped for a foreign market. *A.*



‘ reports in each of the principal matters relating to their respective departments.

‘ All their arrets and orders shall be signed by the chancellor and the other great officers.

‘ Reports shall be made to the king of any branch of commerce, either inland or foreign, that may require his consideration and protection ; together with the present state of any manufacture, in order to perfect the same.’

The suburbs of London still farther increasing on every side, two other new parishes were in this year erected, viz. one called St. George in Bloomsbury, near the market of that name ; and the other in the hamlet of Limehouse, and called St. Anne at Limehouse. Another new parish, named St. Paul’s, was this same year erected in the town of Deptford, near, and almost joining to, the suburbs of London, the great increase of that town, by means of the dock, dock-yard, storehouses, &c. of the navy, occasioning so great an accession of workmen, trades-people, &c. that the old parish-church was too small to contain the inhabitants of so large a town.

The great benefit of light-houses to navigation is allowed by all men ; and many such are in Great Britain of long standing. This year, a statute was made, for confirming a patent granted by her late majesty Queen Anne, to William Trench Esq. deceased, for erecting a light-house upon the island or rock called Skerries, (near Holyhead, at the isle of Anglesea, &c.) whereby the duties granted for maintaining it are made perpetual, it being a very great benefit to all ships and vessels navigating the Irish or St. George’s channel.

The czarina of Russia resumed the monopoly of tar, which had been a considerable branch of the revenue of Peter the Great. It was usually shipped at Archangel, to the amount of about 40,000 lasts (of 11 barrels each) annually, being mostly taken off by the Dutch and Ham-burghers : and this trade still brought many foreign ships to Archangel, after it was eclipsed by the new city of Peterburgh, and though considerable quantities of tar are shipped at that city, and also, since the conquest of Livonia, at Riga, Revel, and Narva.

Ten Dutch East-India ships arriving at one time this year in Holland, it may be worth the noting how much spice of all kinds they brought home, viz. of

|               |   |   |   |           |                 |
|---------------|---|---|---|-----------|-----------------|
| Brown pepper, | - | - | - | 3,145,392 | } pound weight. |
| White pepper, | - | - | - | 3,904     |                 |
| Nutmegs,      | - | - | - | 94,918    |                 |
| Mace,         | - | - | - | 65,604    |                 |
| Cinnamon,     | - | - | - | 640,000   |                 |

Beside 20,000 lb. weight of long pepper, 4623 lb. of cubebs or pepper dust, and 6500 lb. of cardamums from Ceylon and Java.

The other principal parts of the cargo of those ten ships were, 1,580,115 lb. weight of powder-sugar—1,450,000 lb. of saltpetre—90,000 lb. of tin from Siam—559,250 lb. of Sapan and Caliatour wood—6500 lb. of indigo—550 lb. of mother of pearl—130,000 lb. of cowries—306,000 lb. of coffee from Java, Ceylon, and Mocha—36,000 lb. of cotton-yarn from Tutucorin and Java—600 pieces of painted silk stuffs—and 98,850 pieces of various denominations of calicoes.

This cargo will shew the principal articles of the Dutch importations from India: but there came no ships at this time from China; and no tea nor lacquered ware was imported, nor were there any cloves.

Great uneasiness was expressed at this time on account of the court of Spain delaying to send the cedula or licence for the South-sea company's great ship the Royal-Caroline, now loaded with a very rich cargo for the fair of Porto-Bello, the Spanish galleons being already sailed from Cadiz, lest the fair should be over before our ship should arrive there. That port and fair being appointed for the merchants of Chili, Peru, and all the western parts of South-America, to supply themselves with the merchandize of Europe, when the galleons arrive, couriers are dispatched to Panama, Lima, Cusco, St. Jago, and other parts, with notice of the time for holding the fair, to which the merchants resort in caravans with their treasure. It is thought, that the South-sea company cleared, altogether, about £70,000 by this voyage of the Royal-Caroline, almost the only prosperous voyage they ever made.

Great complaints were at this time made against the supercargoes and factors of the voyage in the South-sea ship the Prince Frederick, just returned from the Spanish West-Indies, on account of malversations in bottomree, clandestine trade, &c. needless now to be farther enlarged on, since the commerce of that company will probably never be revived.

This year four of our English China ships arrived with 1,707,000 lb. weight of tea; the duty on which, at 4s per pound, amounted to £341,000 sterling. Supposing that one third of this tea was fairly exported by certificate, the duty of which is drawn back by debenture, then the net duty of the remainder was £227,600; an immense sum to be paid to the public for one single commodity. Moreover, only three of the company's ships from Coast and Bay this same year brought home 371,000 pieces of the many and various kinds of calicoes and Indian-silks, all to be re-exported. Also 73,000 great pounds of raw silk—682,000 lb. weight of saltpetre—93,000 lb. of pepper—192,000 lb. of redwood—2200 of cotton-yarn—16,800 lb. of shellack—and 9000 lb. of sticklack.

We have already, upon several occasions, treated of the various migrations of the great shoals of herrings in the seas of Europe; which at last, some centuries ago, fixed on the coasts of the British islands. Yet,

as what has once been may hereafter be again, we ought not, therefore, to be greatly surpris'd if those delicious fish should again remove to some other coast. What at present has given occasion for this remark is, the account given in the summer of this year by the herring-fishers, which, it seems, much surpris'd them, viz. that shoals of herrings had come southward near two months before their usual time; particularly, in the sea between England and Ireland, great quantities were taken in July, off the frith of Clyde, and off Londonderry, as far south as the bays of Dublin and Wexford\*. Had this humour of those fish continued or increased in succeeding years, it might possibly have diminished their numbers at Lewis and Shetland, which have been their stations for so many ages, and to which great numbers of Scottish and Dutch fishermen resort for that fishery. Such an alteration in so great a branch of commerce would, doubtless, have occasioned a considerable change in the commercial state of several countries of Europe. But nothing extraordinary of that kind has since happened.

The Turkey company are said to have shipped 10,000 pieces of broad cloth in four ships, in August, for the Levant; which demonstrates the very great importance of that company's commerce to the nation.

In October this year we find the following remarkable importations of goods from the English American colonies, which being entirely new, and mostly unexpected, productions in those colonies, though not very considerable in themselves, are well worth remarking, as a great increase of most part thereof has since fortunately happened, viz.

Two tons of iron from St. Christophers, found in that part of the island which formerly was possessed by the French †.

Fifty hundred weight of hemp, raised in New-England and Carolina.

Seventy-two bags of wool, from, and produced in, the islands of Jamaica, St. Christophers, &c. ‡.

Forty tons of iron; 30 hundred weight of copper ore; 156 quintals of bees-wax; 3 hundred weight of hemp; 3 hundred weight of raw silk; all produced in the province of Virginia.

The Hudson's-bay company this year imported 11,040 coat and parchment beaver-skins; 4404 ditto of cubs; 3330 damaged and stage parchment; 990 ditto cubs; 1648 martins, and 3130 damaged ditto; 380

\* Very opposite opinions have been held upon the curious subject of the migration of the herring. The reader, who wishes to examine them, may consult *Dodd's Essay upon the herring*, p. 44.—*Anderson's Account of the Hebrides (Western islands)*, pp. 346, 449.—*Knox's View of the British empire*, p. 171.—*American Philosophical transactions*, V. ii, p. 236. M.

† I do not find iron a production of St. Christo-

phers by any account of that island. I think it must have been previously imported to it. M.

‡ Quere, if not cotton, usually called cotton-wool? If it was real wool, it must have been taken from northern sheep carried to those islands, or it must have been imported from some other country; for, it is well known, that in all tropical countries sheep lose their wool, and become as smooth as horses, soon after their arrival. M.

otter-skins; 890 cat-skins; 260 fox-skins; 540 woolverins; 410 black bear-skins; 190 wolves-skins; and 30 wood-shocks. By this trade we now save much money, which we formerly sent to Russia, for these useful peltry, now entirely purchased with our own coarse woollen and other manufactures and product.

We shall close this year with a quotation from *Travels through a great part of Europe*, in this same year, by Keyflar, (an author of credit and esteem) in favour of our modern English silk fabrications, viz. 'In Italy itself, the silks of English manufacture are most esteemed, and bear a greater price than those of Italy: so that, at Naples, when a tradesman would highly recommend his silk stockings, &c. he protests they are 'right English \*.'

1731.—As the condition, importance, and value, of all the British, and some of the foreign, colonies in America were set in a much clearer light than possibly ever before, in a judicious tract, intitled the Importance of the British plantations in America to this kingdom, &c. considered, [114 pp. 8vo, London 1731] we think a short abstract of it, with some few remarks, will be useful.

If the island of Tobago justly belongs to this kingdom, (as he is informed it does) it is surprising it hath not been settled by us; since, though not quite so large as Barbados, it is superior to it for good roads, convenient rivers, and richness of soil.

St. Lucia seems to be quite lost to us. For since the French expelled Captain Uring in the year 1725, they are become more numerous there than before.

St. Vincent and Dominica are likewise possessed by the French; whose intercourse with the Indians of both islands, (who generally speak French, and who are taught by them to despise all other nations) and their quiet possession of them, give the people of Martinico and Guadaloupe the pleasing prospect of seeing all of them settled and fortified by them. These two isles are scarcely inferior to Barbados in extent and fertility; and, in conveniency of roads and harbours, far superior. They both lie between Granada and Martinico, the former of which is one of the oldest settlements the French have in that part, producing a vast quantity of sugar, cotton, and cacao.

Dominica lies next to Martinico, and between that and Guadaloupe, Grandeterre, Marigalante, and Deseada; all fine and large islands belonging to the French, whose increase in those islands, within a few years past, is prodigious. So that we may reasonably reckon, that they are not fewer in number of people than all the English Leeward islands, with Barbados included.

\* The total value of the imports of England in the year 1730, was £7,780,019, and of the exports (not including gold and bullion) £8,548,982. [*Whitworth's State.*] M.

The English Leeward islands \*, are Antigua, Nevis, St. Christophers, and Montserrat. These four, together with Barbuda, Anguilla, Tortola, and Spanishtown, all settled on by the English, may be modestly considered altogether, as at least equal in consequence to us with Barbados, and are capable of vast improvements, which Barbados is not, but is rather declining and wearing out.

Eustatia is possessed by the Dutch, and is about three leagues from St. Christophers; and, though very inconsiderable in extent and produce, yet it drives a great smuggling trade with our islands by their ships from Africa underselling our own people with their negroes. Saba, a little to the leeward, is also possessed by the Dutch, but is very inconsiderable.

A little more northward lie St. Martin and St. Bartholomew; both inconsiderable islands, and both partly inhabited by French, and partly by Dutch.

Santa Croce has been twice possessed by the English, who have as often been beat out by the French. It is not much less than Barbados, and inferior to none in point of healthfulness, fertility, good roads, and bays. Yet at present it is not settled.

Northward lies the island of St. Thomas, possessed by the Danes; remarkable only for its harbour, which is a free port, and for smuggling.

Due west from St. Thomas lies St. John de Porto Rico, inhabited by very few Spaniards, chiefly a lawless sort of people. This island, though inferior to none in point of fertility, has nevertheless been much neglected by Spain.

Hispaniola is divided between the French and Spaniards. The former greatly thriving and multiplying, the Spaniards daily decreasing, many of their fine old houses and plantations being left desolate; inso-much, that the French are reckoned to be double the number of the Spaniards in that large island, including the slaves of both, and to be already possessed of the greatest part of it. The few Spaniards remaining there look upon the whole island as gone, upon the first rupture between the two crowns. The almost amazing improvements of the French here, since the reign of our King William, shew what great things may be done by able ministers, even under an arbitrary prince. This island alone is of more value than all our possessions in those parts, has excellent harbours, bays, and rivers; and, if we except Cuba †, far exceeds all the rest of the West-India islands.

\* So called with respect to Barbados, which is to the eastward, or to *windward*, of all the West-India islands. *A.*

This appellation of *Leeward islands*, which might be proper, when Barbados was the only English colony in the West-Indies, is now becoming obsolete, and they are now more generally

called *Windward islands* by us, as well as the French, they being in truth to windward of all the rest, except Barbados. *M.*

† The Abbé Raynal's tables shew the produce of the French portion of Hispaniola to be above eighteen times the value of the produce of Cuba. *M.*

Thirty leagues west of Hispaniola lies our island of Jamaica in length 150, in breadth 50, miles; of the importance of which, we may partly judge from the quantity of its produce annually shipped off for us, viz. in sugar alone, 10,000 tons. In cotton, indigo, ginger, pimento, rum, lime-juice, cacao, mahogany, &c, 2000 tons more. Thus, not less than 12,000 tons of our own shipping are constantly employed in that service only; over and above what is employed between Jamaica and the northern continental colonies. Great are the advantages accruing to Britain from the trade between Jamaica and the Spaniards of Mexico, &c. the rise whereof sprung from the treaty of 1670, (called the American treaty,) whereby peace was first settled between the two nations in America; and till the commencement of Queen Anne's war that trade was carried on with little interruption, to the value of near £300,000 yearly, in various European merchandize, negroes, provisions, &c. for all which our people were paid in good pieces of eight.

Jamaica, however, afterwards regained much of that clandestine trade; by which, and by their privateers, and the money spent by the ships of war stationed in those seas, they became rich and populous, till after the South-sea company's assiento factors settled there; when again much of their illicit trade was lost \*.

Much of that clandestine trade removed to the Dutch isle of Curaçoa, from thence grown up to be very considerable in commerce and shipping, though of itself a mere barren spot, with only a commodious harbour, and an happy situation in respect to the Spanish West-Indies. It is supplied with provisions from the two neighbouring Dutch isles of Aruba and Bonaire; and, though yielding nothing of itself, is yet a market for all things, there having been sometimes seen in its harbour 60 or 70 sail of ships together.

Cuba is to the Spaniards the most important by its situation of any island they have in all America. It is about 700 miles in length, and 120 miles in breadth in some parts. It has an excellent soil, infinite numbers of cattle, and fine tobacco; great quantities of aromatic drugs and dye-stuffs. It has also fine bays and havens. What renders it so particularly beneficial to Spain, is its safe and well-fortified harbour and port called Havanna, being the rendezvous of all the Spanish fleets and shipping bound to Europe from any part of the coasts of New-Spain, &c. to the westward or leeward of the Caracca's. Yet the Spaniards have been far from cultivating this fine island so well as might have been done.

Of the Bahama islands, though very numerous, and producing many things useful and necessary, and all claimed by the crown of Great Britain, only four are inhabited by English people, viz. Providence, the

\* It was said, with too much truth, that it was carried on by the others. A.



principal one; Eleutheria, Harbour-island, and Green-turtle-key. Yet for extent and goodness of soil, Abaco is the best, though not yet settled. And, to say the truth, were it not for preventing pirates from settling there \*, none of these isles would be worth keeping a governor, forts, and garrisons in them, considering how many finer-situated colonies we have still to improve.

What our author says of Carolina by no means comes up to what we have elsewhere noted from very good authority; to which therefore we refer.

Virginia and Maryland are most valuable acquisitions to Britain, as well for their great staple commodity, tobacco, as for pitch, tar, furs, deer skins, walnut-tree planks, iron in pigs, and medicinal drugs. Both together send annually to Great Britain 60,000 hogsheads of tobacco, weighing, one with another, 600 pound weight, which, at  $2\frac{1}{2}d$  per pound, comes to £375,000. And he thinks, the shipping employed to bring home their tobacco must be at least 24,000 tons; which, at £10 per ton, is £240,000, the value of the shipping; the greatest part thereof by far being English-built, continually and constantly fitted and repaired in England. The freight, at £1 : 10 per hogshead (the lowest), is £90,000; and the petty charges and commission, on each hogshead not less than £1, or £60,000; which, making together £150,000, we undoubtedly receive from those two provinces upon tobacco only. The net proceeds of the tobacco may be £225,000, on which there may be about 5 per cent commission and petty charges, being £11,250. There is also imported in the tobacco ships from those two provinces, lumber†, to the value of £15,000, two thirds whereof is clear gain, it not costing £4000 in that country, first cost in goods; and, as it is the master's privilege, there is no freight paid for it. Skins and furs about £6000 value; £4000 of which is actual gain to England. So the whole gain to England amounts to about £180,000 annually: and moreover, the whole produce of these two provinces is paid for in goods.

Those two provinces moreover produce excellent flax; also wool, equal to our best English wool; of both which they have manufactures: and what they do not manufacture themselves, they exchange with the Pennsylvanians for rum, sugar, melasses, salt, &c. This author had seen two very promising iron works, one in Virginia, the other in Maryland; both of them close to water carriage, as well as to the woods. So that, if they have not leave to import their iron duty-free, they must manufacture it for themselves, which will in time lessen the exportation of our iron wares.

\* He might have added, *other European nations*, several of whom would settle there, if not prevented by our superior naval power. *A.*

† Boards and timber for building, cypress wood, shingles, staves, heading and hoops for casks, masts, and other spars, and ship timber, pass in America under the general name of *lumber*. *A.*

The trade of these two provinces to all other parts than Great Britain is inconsiderable: not employing above 1000 tons of shipping to the sugar islands, and in all other trades on their own proper account. Yet a great number of vessels resort to both provinces, of and from our other continental colonies.

That Pennsylvania, which has not any peculiar staple (like Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland) and was begun to be planted so late as 1680, should at present have more white inhabitants in it than all Virginia, Maryland, and both the Carolinas, is extremely remarkable: and, though the youngest colony on the continent\*, they have by far the finest capital city of all British America, and the second in magnitude. The causes usually assigned for this vast increase of white people there, in so short a time, are, 1st, Their kind treatment of the Indians their neighbours, whereby the province is absolutely safe from their attempts. Some indeed have gone so far as to assert, that they are the only British colony that have treated the poor native Indians with humanity: for that no other British province admits of the evidence of an Indian against a white man: nor are the complaints of Indians against white men duely regarded in other colonies, whereby those poor people endure the most cruel treatment from the very worst of our own people, without hope of redress: and all the Indian wars in our colonies were occasioned by such means. 2dly, The excellency of the laws; whereby property is effectually secured to all the inhabitants. 3dly, The unlimited toleration for all manner of religious persuasions, without permitting any claims to ecclesiastical power to take place. All men who are protestants are indifferently eligible to the magistracy and legislature, let their private opinions be what they will, without any religious test.

The product of Pennsylvania for exportation is, wheat, flour, biscuit, barrelled beef and pork, bacon, hams, butter, cheese, cyder, apples, soap, myrtle-wax candles, starch, hair-powder, tanned leather, bees'-wax, tallow candles, strong beer, lint-seed oil, strong waters, deer skins, and other peltry; hemp, which they have encouraged by an additional bounty of  $1\frac{1}{2}d$  per pound weight, over and above what is allowed by act of parliament; some little tobacco, lumber, and drugs of various sorts, as saffrafras, calamus aromaticus, snake-root. Lastly, the Pennsylvanians build about 2000 tons of shipping yearly for sale, over and above what they employ in their own trade, which may be about 6000 tons more. They send great quantities of corn to Portugal and Spain, frequently selling the ship as well as cargo; and the produce of both is sent thence to England, where it is always laid out in goods, and sent home to Pennsylvania. They receive from 4000 to 6000 pistoles from the Dutch island of Curaçoa alone for provisions and liquors. And

\* Georgia was not then settled. *A.*

they trade to Surinam in the like manner, and to the French part of Hispaniola, as also to the other French sugar islands, whence they bring back melasses, and also some money. From Jamaica they sometimes return with all money and no goods, because the rum and melasses are so dear there. And all the money they can get from all parts, as also sugar, rice, tar, pitch, &c. is brought to England to pay for the manufactures, &c. they carry home from us; which have not for many years past been less than £150,000 per annum. They trade to our provinces of New-England, Virginia, Maryland, and Carolina, and to all the islands in the West-Indies, except the Spanish ones, as also to the Canaries, Madeira, and the Azores; likewise to Newfoundland, for fish, which they carry to Spain, Portugal, and up the Mediterranean, and remit the money to England, which, one way or other, may amount to £60,000 yearly; but, without their trade to the French and Dutch colonies in the West-Indies, they could not remit so much to England: neither could they carry on their trade with the Indians, if they did not take off the rum and melasses, as well as the sugars of those colonies, in part of payment of the cargoes they carry thither.

New-York and the two Jerseys have the same commodities as Pennsylvania has for exportation, except they do not build so many ships. New-York also has lately found in her bowels the richest copper mine that perhaps was ever heard of; great quantities of which have been lately brought to England. This, and the iron mines of Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, might be brought to supply Great Britain and Ireland with all we want of those metals; which, too, would be paid for with our own manufactures, instead of paying £300,000 of our cash for those metals to Sweden, &c. New-York, it is true, sends fewer ships to England than some other colonies do, but those they do send are richer, as dealing more in furs and skins with the Indians; and they are at least of equal advantage to us with Pennsylvania, both as to the money they send us, and the manufactures they take of us. The city of New-York is a most delightful place, and has near as many inhabitants as Philadelphia has; and its country is one of the pleafantest in the universe.

The soil of New-England is not unlike that of Great Britain. It has at least 120,000 white inhabitants\*, employing about 40,000 tons of shipping in their foreign and coasting trades, and above 600 sail of ships, sloops, &c. about one half of which shipping trades to Europe. Their fisheries have been reckoned annually to produce 230,000 quintals of dried fish, which, being sent to Portugal, Spain, and up the Mediterranean, yield 12s per quintal, being 1,38,000 sterling. And as their salt, rum, and melasses, as also their provisions and utensils, are purchased for the refuse fish, which is not fit for the European market, and for the

\* He means here only Massachusetts-bay. A.

oil made from the fish, the whole sum may be said to be gained out of the sea. By this fishery, and their other commerce, they are said to employ at least 6000 seamen: and adding to the above sum the freight and commission, all earned by our own people, and reckoned at one third more, the whole will be £172,500, all remitted to Great Britain. There is, moreover, their whale fishery, employing about 1300 tons of shipping. To Europe, also, and to the West-Indies, they send great quantities of lumber of all sorts, and of provisions, the same as mentioned under the head of Pennsylvania, the produce whereof is likewise remitted to England. They also trade to the bay of Honduras for logwood. And as they build shipping very cheap, they can afford to sell their lumber, &c. to our sugar colonies at a lower rate than any other people can. Many of those New-England ships are loaded from the sugar islands directly for England. From New-England, also, we have the largest masts in the world for our navy. From thence, also, as from our other continental colonies, we receive all the gold and silver that they can spare, none of which ever returns to them: for we give them in exchange all manner of wearing apparel, woollen, brass, iron, and linen manufactures, East-India goods, &c. in all, to the value of £400,000 yearly.

Newfoundland, though very thinly inhabited by us, is nevertheless of vast benefit to us: we make, one year with another, about 200,000 quintals of fish there; which, at 12s per quintal, comes to £120,000 sterling; which may be reckoned all clear gain to this kingdom, the oil of the fish paying for salt, &c. As this gain is obtained by the mere labour of our people, and as the fishery is of great use in breeding able seamen, the natural strength of this kingdom; as, moreover, we have from Newfoundland great quantities of peltry, i. e. the furs and skins of deer, fox, otter, seal, minx, and bear, with some beaver, we ought therefor greatly to prize Newfoundland.

The Hudson's-bay trade employs generally three ships from London, carrying thither coarse duffle cloth or blanketing, powder and shot, spirits, &c. and bringing home vast quantities of peltry of many kinds, bed-feathers, whale-fins, &c. And as that small company makes a dividend of 8, or formerly 10, per cent on their capital of about £100,000, besides the employment they give to our people in fitting out and loading those ships, it may truly be said to be an advantageous commerce, proportioned to its bulk.

The Bermuda islands were formerly esteemed extremely fertile: but they seem now to be wearing out apace. In Queen Anne's war, they are said to have had above 100 brigantines and sloops, though now not above half that number. They take of us whatever necessaries they have occasion for, and pay us in money, which they get by trading

among the sugar isles, &c. and also with chip hats for women, and whatever else they can procure.

Thus we have, in brief, a politico-commercial, and, in part, a natural, survey of all our colonies, excepting Nova-Scotia, at that time, in effect, no colony at all; being most unaccountably neglected till of late years: and, though written thirty years ago, since which time many alterations and improvements have happened in all or most of those colonies, of which we have elsewhere taken notice; yet the main foundation of their respective trades and productions being always the same, and many points relating thereto being treated so distinctly and methodically, as to give much light thereinto, more especially to such as are not practical merchants, we thought it well merited the room it has taken up. The author's conclusion is, 'that Great Britain gains one million sterling by her American colonies, exclusive of what we gain by any trades for negroes, or for dry goods, with the Spaniards in the West-Indies; and that, by our colonies alone, we maintain and employ at least 18,000 seamen and fishermen.' Nevertheless, we have, in several other parts of this work, made it plainly appear, that even this author's account of the benefits we receive from our American plantations is far from comprehending all the advantages we receive from thence.

This year the parliament (by act 4 *Geo. II, c. 5*) paid out of the sinking fund one million of the South-sea annuity stock from michaelmas 1731, which the proprietors divided among themselves, at the rate of  $6\frac{1}{4}$  per cent.

That company now sent out their remaining 22 ships on the whale fishery, one of which was lost, and the remaining 21 brought home 14 whales, which was far from being a saving voyage. At the company's dock there had at this time been invented a new sort of gun for shooting with gunpowder the harpoons into the bodies of whales, at a greater distance than they could be thrown by hand; and the ships were accordingly provided with some of them, which were used both in this and the next year's fishery, with some success. They were chiefly useful in calm weather, though scarcely practicable in blowing weather, which mostly prevails in the ~~the~~ Greenland seas. And though the foreign harpooners could not easily be brought to use them, as being out of their usual method, yet in a ship fitted out by Mr. Elias Bird and partners, two years later, out of the three whales brought home, two were said to be killed by that new-invented gun.

A company was now set on foot in Sweden for trading from Gottenburg to the East-Indies, by authority of the king of Sweden's grant to Henry Koning, a rich and intelligent merchant, with such others as should join him, exclusive of all others, for fifteen years, to all parts from beyond the Cape of Good Hope to Japan: but they were not to trade at any place, within those limits, belonging to any other European

nation or state, without their permission; and they were to pay to the crown an hundred dahlers per last for every ship employed by them, and two dahlers more per last for port duties. Above a million of rix-dollars were presently subscribed, by Swedes and foreigners, into the stock of this new company, which may be said to have partly sprung out of the ruins of the Ostend company; and many, or most, of its subscribers and managers were for a long time foreigners and chiefly British subjects; the native Swedes being at first unacquainted with that trade: but by a subsequent treaty or agreement, concluded between the Swedish court and our English East-India company, there were no British subjects, after a certain fixed term, to be employed in the service of the Swedish company.

The company have had their grant renewed, and continue annually to send one or two ships to China: but as there is not consumption enough in Sweden for their cargoes, both this company and that of Denmark are said to be very hurtful to our own and the Dutch East-India trade, by running in upon our widely-extended coasts, tea, china-ware, silks, &c. and also by supplying foreign parts with such East-India goods as we formerly sent thither.

A law having been made in the 7th and 8th of King William III, prohibiting the landing of any goods in Ireland, of the growth or product of the English American plantations, unless they were first landed in England, and paid the duties there: and that law being construed to extend to all kinds of American merchandize, as well unenumerated as enumerated, it was now explained so far in favour of Ireland, 'that all goods from America, not enumerated, might in like sort be landed in Ireland, in British ships navigated agreeable to the navigation acts.' [4. *Geo. II, c. 15.*] This was doing no more than putting Ireland on a par with foreign countries in respect to such unenumerated goods. The enumerated commodities at this time were sugar, tobacco, cotton-wool, indigo, ginger, dying-woods, melasses, rice, furs, copper-ore, pitch, tar, turpentine, masts, yards, and bowsprits, imported from, and the growth and product of, the British American plantations; all which must first be landed in Great Britain, except the rice of Carolina, which may be carried to any place south of Cape Finisterre.

In the same year an act of parliament ordained, that all pleadings in courts of justice in England, and in the court of exchequer in Scotland, should be in the English language. The preamble declares, 'that many and great mischiefs frequently happen to the subjects of this kingdom from the proceedings in courts of justice being in an unknown language; those who are summoned and impleaded having no knowledge or understanding of what is alleged for or against them in the pleadings of their lawyers and attorneys, who also use a character not legible to any but persons practising the law. All



'pleadings therefor and writings must henceforth be in the English language (excepting in the court of admiralty) and not in Latin or French, and all deeds and other writings in a common legible hand and without abbreviations.' [4 Geo. III, c. 26.] Strange, that this was not enacted long before.

The second penny, paid for penny-post letters and parcels, when carried beyond London, Westminster, and Southwark, and their respective suburbs, and as far as within ten miles thereof, and not passing by the general post, and from thence transmitted by the penny-post, which had before been voluntarily paid by the persons receiving them, was now legally confirmed; because in many cases the letter-carriers are obliged to travel on horseback to places at a considerable distance from London. [4 Geo. III, c. 33.]

This same year the Danish or Norwegian colony, which was sent to replant Old Greenland in the year 1721, returned home, the climate being found so cold, and the country so barren, that even Norwegians could not live in it. Yet it seems the clergyman, who went out with this colony, having converted about 600 of the native savages to the christian religion, generously determined to remain with those poor people for the benefit of their souls. *Rara avis in terris.*

At this time the states-general of the United Netherlands had a dispute with the court of Denmark, about renewing the tariff, which some years ago expired, for regulating the toll to be paid by Dutch ships passing through the Sound. There is a proverb in Holland, that the keys of the Sound are at Amsterdam. Yet those keys (i. e. a strong squadron of ships of war to be sent annually to keep that passage open) being very costly as well as hazardous, it was amicably made up on the same terms as before, and as we and other nations pay. It seems evidently the true interest of the court of Denmark to act with great moderation towards the mercantile shipping of the several nations of Europe passing this Sound; seeing that any new and extravagant demands might unite so many powerful opponents as would be able to call in question the very foundation on which that toll has stood, though for so many ages past.

The king of Portugal this year gave permission for one ship to make only one voyage to Surat and the coast of Coromandel, and back to Portugal, exclusive of all others; for which end a company was established, whose capital was limited to 600,000 crusadoes: and the subscribers were, some time after the return of the ship, to be paid back their principal and their dividend of the profits.

Hereupon the British consul at Lisbon gave warning to all British subjects living in Portugal to avoid being any way concerned in this.

voyage ; as, by an act of parliament of the 9th year of King George I (particularly aimed at the Ostend East-India trade) such British subjects as should be concerned in foreign companies trading to the East-Indies should forfeit all their stock therein, and triple the value ; and any of our king's subjects going to, or being found in, the East-Indies (other than those of our East-India company) were thereby declared guilty of an high crime and misdemeanor, &c. as has been shewn under the year 1723. And his warning had the desired effect.

During this year there were re-exported from the port of London alone, in only two of the enumerated commodities imported from the British American colonies, 15,787,155 lb. weight avoirdupois of tobacco ; and 58,446 cwt. (of 112 pounds to the cwt.) or 6,545,952 lb. weight of sugar ; which equally serves to demonstrate the vast benefit of our plantations to their mother country, and the vast foreign commerce of the city of London, the whole exports thereof in this one year consisting of no fewer than 105 articles, or different species, of merchandize ; many of which were very considerable ones,—as in the woollen manufacture alone, 894 suits of apparel ; 2216 pair of blankets ; 3847 dozen of caps ; 10,437 dozen of castors and felts ; cloths long and short 4822 ; coverlids 385 ; flannel 48436 yards ; garments 1577 ; haberdashery 827 cwt. ; hose 7773 dozen ; kerfies and dozens 2319 ; perperets 1995 ; plains 9640 goads ; rugs 713 ; stuffs and bays 38,915 pieces ; besides vast quantities of wheat, beans, peas, and oats ; bacon, biscuit, cheese, flour ; East-India goods in vast quantities ; iron, copper, and brass, ware, lead, and tin, tinned plates ; linen, threads, and tapes, sail-cloth, &c.

And of London's imports there were 85 different species of merchandize, consisting of many sorts of drugs, spices, cotton, deer-skins, ivory, indigo, gums, goats-skins, iron, many kinds of dying-woods and oils, naval stores, rice, rum, turpentine, wine, wool, &c.

This year was concluded the famous treaty of Vienna, between the emperor Charles VI, the king of Great Britain, and the states-general of the United Netherlands, for a mutual guarantee of each others dominions ; and in a most especial manner,

‘ I) For guaranteeing with all their forces the order of succession, which the emperor had established by a solemn act in the year 1713, and again confirmed in 1724, in favour of primogeniture for all his heirs of both sexes, so as that the eldest of either sex shall succeed to all the hereditary dominions of the house of Austria indivisibly forever,’ commonly called the pragmatic sanction.

II) For the Spanish infant Don Carlos eventually to succeed to the duchies of Tuscany, Parma, and Placentia. France afterwards agreed to this pragmatic sanction.

III) The emperor, by the 5th article of this treaty, engaged to cause all commerce and navigation to the East-Indies to cease immediately and forever in the Austrian Netherlands, and in all the other countries which were formerly under the dominion of Spain, in the time of King Charles II \*, in such manner that neither the Ostend company, nor any other shall at any time contravene this treaty. Excepting that the Ostend company may send for once only, two ships to the East-Indies, which shall return to Ostend, and there sell their cargoes.

IV) But, by a separate article, the guarantees before-specified of each others dominions, in the 1st article of this treaty, are not to be extended to any disturbance which the Turks may hereafter give to the dominions of the house of Austria. This last was a very proper exception in the two maritime powers to make; since otherwise they might have involved themselves in war with the Ottoman porte, which would throw their Turkey trade entirely into France, which has already considerably enlarged her trade to the Levant. [*Collection of treaties*, V. iv, ed. 1733.]

The French, finding us not object to their fort at Niagara in the Iroquois country, now erected another at Crown-point, in the center of that country, and within the undoubted limits of New-York colony; and this fort, as well as another erected by them in the same country, named Ticonderoga, they held till both were taken by us in the year 1759.

The merchants trading to the British sugar colonies, and the planters, represented to the house of commons, that the British continental colonies carried on a trade with the sugar colonies of the French and Dutch, from whence they were supplied with sugar, rum, melasses, &c. instead of those of our own sugar colonies, as well as with foreign European goods and manufactures, contrary to the tenor or intention of the laws in being, and of the treaty with France in the year 1686; and they alleged, that, as this new trade (first complained of in the year 1715) increased, and enriched the colonies of other nations, so it was injurious to the trade of this kingdom, and greatly impoverished the British sugar colonies; and therefor they prayed for relief therein. Thereupon a committee was appointed, upon whose report a bill was brought in, and passed the house of commons, for the better securing and encouraging the trade of his majesty's sugar colonies. It was indeed dropped in the house of peers: yet, as being a subject of the greatest consequence to our American commerce and colonies, we shall exhibit an abstract of that bill as it was sent up to the house of peers, viz.

Section I) No sugar, rum, or melasses, of the plantations of foreign

\* This clause also respects his dominions in Italy and Sicily. A.

nations, shall be imported into Britain or Ireland, or any of the king's dominions in America, under forfeiture of lading, ship, and furniture.

II) Aiders, assisters, and receivers, in landing any such foreign sugars, &c. to forfeit triple the value thereof.

III) The *onus probandi*, or proof that the sugar, &c. so seized, was the product of the British plantations, shall lye on the proprietor of such goods.

IV) Masters of ships, taking in, at sea, or in any creek, harbour, or other place, any such foreign sugar, &c. in order to be landed in Great Britain or British America, shall forfeit L200.

V, VI) The master of every ship loading sugars, &c. at the British sugar colonies, bound to any other part of the king's dominions, shall, before he sails, deliver to the collector of the port a true account of his lading, and take of him a certificate thereof, with the merchant's name who shipped them, and of him to whom consigned; and, when arrived at his intended port, shall take an oath and sign a true manifest of his lading.

VII, VIII) And whereas great numbers of horses, and great quantities of lumber have been exported from our continental colonies to the foreign sugar colonies, whereby they are enabled more easily to carry on their sugar plantations; none such shall be transported hereafter to those foreign colonies: and when any such goods are to be shipped from the continental colonies, the master shall give a bond for L500, that they shall not be carried to any foreign sugar colony, &c.

IX, X) Governors, custom-house officers, &c. conniving at any fraudulent importation of foreign sugars, &c. to forfeit L300.

XI) Nothing in this act shall extend to restrain the usual importation of sugars from the dominions of Portugal.

Let us next, as briefly as possible, hear the allegations on both sides for and against this bill.

In support of the bill, it was urged, both within doors and in sundry pamphlets and newspapers, that the northern colonists had supplied the French and Dutch sugar colonies with shipping, provisions, horses, and lumber, ever since the peace of Utrecht, and that trade not only made those necessary commodities cheaper to them than they could have them any where else, but also obliged the importers to take in payment great quantities of French and Dutch sugars, rum, and melasses, to the infinite detriment of the British sugar colonies; and, what is still more grievous and detrimental to the public, that intercourse affords our northern colonies an opportunity of being supplied with French European merchandize which are prohibited by law.

The quantity of sugar now made in America being greater than Europe can consume, it is of consequence to us not to give foreigners a pre

ference for the vent of their own produce, in any part of his majesty's dominions.

The French having power (by the above treaty) to seize on our ships trading to their colonies, it is manifest that it must either be for their advantage, or else from necessity, that they suffer it.

For the encouragement of our northern colonies to persist in that trade, they have the rum and melasses from those foreign colonies, without the high duties paid for them when imported into Britain. Melasses was formerly of little or no value to the French planter, (because rum was detrimental to France as interfering with the consumption of their brandy) until the French found they could sell it to our colonists, in return for timber, horses, oxen, and provisions, so needful for them; whereby also they saved so much money in specie; and even the money, which our northern colonists receive at our own sugar islands in payment for their lumber, provisions, horses, &c. is now carried to the French sugar islands for the purchase of their melasses and rum, near one half of the goods carried from North-America to our own sugar islands, being now paid for in money, and not by barter, as formerly; whereby the French are enabled to increase their settlements, and also their negro trade.

This intercourse, moreover, enhances the price of negroes to our own sugar colonies, as well as of provisions, lumber, &c. being a great discouragement to them, and more especially to Jamaica and St. Christophers, where there are large quantities of land for new settlements.

There are persons still living, who very well remember, that there were great quantities of provisions and other requisites for planting, sent from England to our sugar colonies, because at that time our northern colonies were not able fully to supply them: whereas now the chief benefit, which the northern colonies yield to their mother country, is their being able to supply our sugar colonies with those necessaries much cheaper than they could have them elsewhere: and our northern colonies should be restricted to that way of trading to our West-India isles, together with their fisheries, and raising naval stores, flax, hemp, indigo, &c. allowing them, however, any other commerce to foreign countries, not detrimental to their mother country.

Whereas it is alleged by the northern colonists, that, if they were restrained from supplying the French sugar isles, they might be supplied with lumber, from their own continental settlements at Mobile, Pensacola, and Fort Louis, in the bay of Apalachy, whereby they would be encouraged to improve and people those colonies, and that of Mississippi, whence some ships have already begun to carry lumber to the French sugar islands; and with lumber, provisions, &c. from Canada. This the sugar-island advocates absolutely denied, saying, moreover, that those French continental colonies could not take off their rum and melasses

in return ; and that Canada is a barren country, and its river only navigable in the summer months.

Whereas formerly we supplied even France, as well as Holland, Germany, Italy, &c. with sugars ; it is chiefly by the above means that we are now almost solely confined to the home consumption of Great Britain ; being in a great measure excluded from Ireland, (by clandestine importations) and from our own American colonies, who, instead of carrying their product to our sugar colonies, as formerly, now carry the same to our rivals, in exchange for their rum and melasses.

With respect to Barbados, in particular, they are at a great expense in their fortifications and their militia, without any charge to the crown ; beside the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent in specie, which they pay to the crown on all their exports, amounting to about £10,000 yearly. Moreover, Barbados employs constantly 1000 of our own seamen, and 10,000 tons of our shipping : and the kingdom gains annually from this small island £95,000 sterling. Whereas the French and Dutch pay much lower duties than British subjects do, both at home and in their plantations.

Of late the Dutch have extended their colonies at Surinam, Essequibo, and Barbicities, (places on the continent, in the province of Guiana) making much greater quantities of sugar, rum, and melasses, than formerly ; a great part of which they sell to our northern colonists in return for horses, provisions, and lumber.

Lastly, it was asserted, that the produce of our sugar islands may be estimated and valued at £1,500,000 per annum, which is so much additional wealth to Great Britain : and that the actual and direct annual gain arising, one way or other, to Great Britain, from our sugar colonies, can be no less than 1,200,000 per annum ; arising from the vast quantities of British manufactures consumed by them, from the like manufactures and product sent to the coast of Guinea for the purchase of negroes for the islands, from the accumulated freight of the shipping employed in those two branches, the gain on the sugars re-exported, the customs, the commission, the victualling and refitting of the ships, &c. It was also alleged, that four fifths of all the gains of a sugar plantation center in Great Britain, and the other fifth formerly centered in the northern colonies solely, but now one half of that fifth is taken away in cash, and carried to the French plantations, to buy their sugar, rum, and melasses.

On the other hand, the following arguments were urged in behalf of the British northern colonies, viz. New-England, Rhode-island, New-York, Pennsylvania, and the Jerseys.

As all the sugar, rum, and melasses, of our sugar isles are taken off at high prices by Great Britain and the northern colonies, it would be very impolitic to obstruct the latter from taking melasses, and even rum, from the French islands, for the supply of their Indian trade, and much more



of their fisheries; seeing our own sugar colonies are unable to supply the great quantity of melasses which those two trades demand; more especially as from the French islands they receive in payment silver and cacao, as well as melasses, (but seldom sugar or rum) which silver comes ultimately to Great Britain to pay for the balance of trade: and the northern colonies distill the melasses into rum for the above purposes.

By this trade the northern colonies are enabled to make such considerable remittances to England in ready money, as they could procure nowhere else but by their traffic with the foreign colonies, as well as by indigo, cacao, sugar, and rum, both from British and foreign colonies; for enabling them to pay for the great quantities of our manufactures which they yearly take of us.

If the northern colonies were not permitted to supply the French islands with lumber, they could have them, though somewhat dearer, from their own colonies in the bay of Apalachy; and our horses would be of little or no use, if not bought up by the French, who, besides, could have them (as also mules) from the coasts of New-Spain and New-Andalusia, and from the Dutch island of Curaçoa.

The British sugar isles employ no ships but for their own sugars and some few other commodities; and what assistance they afford to the negro trade: whereas, for every ship which they use, the northern colonies employ ten at least, and not only use great quantities of British goods themselves, but moreover supply the Indian nations behind them with vast quantities thereof, whereby they afford employment to a much greater number of hands in Great Britain than the sugar islands can do.

The late great improvements in the Dutch and French sugar colonies are owing to their industry and frugality on one hand, and, on the other, to the notorious luxury and extravagance of the people in our sugar isles, who, instead of endeavouring to regain their former trade by lowering their prices, would now gain it by force, by the help of an act of parliament compelling all the subjects of Great Britain, both at home and in America, to take off their merchandize on their own terms, for the support of the luxury and extravagance for which they have been so long famous. The high prices of their sugars have been the means of losing their former European markets; and if they are to be raised still higher, they will lose all that is yet left; so that in the end the subjects of Great Britain alone must support those people in luxury and indolence. Barbados was formerly wont to trade with the French and Dutch, and, by taking off their sugars, prevented their seeking for other markets, whereby the Barbadians gained the sugar trade almost entirely into their own hands: but they lost it again in the year 1715 by laying a duty on foreign sugars, &c. too high to be supported.

The consumption of rum in New-England is so great, that an author on this subject asserts, that there have been 20,000 hogsheads of French melasses manufactured into rum at Boston in one year: and as every gallon of melasses will make a gallon of rum, this will amount to 1,260,000 gallons of rum in one year: so vast is the demand for that liquor by their fishery, and by the Indian trade. If then, the trade from New-England to the French islands was to be prohibited, how much would our American fishery and the Indian trade suffer for want of rum, seeing that all the rum from our own sugar colonies is now entirely taken off by Great Britain and her colonies? And if our northern colonies should buy up all the melasses and rum which our sugar islands can make, then, not only the duty on rum imported into Britain and Ireland would be sunk, which now produces a large sum, but the French would bring their rum to the European markets, and would probably run it in upon us. About 40 years ago (i. e. about the year 1690) the melasses were entirely wasted in Jamaica, where they produced fine sugars long before they made any rum, which they at length learned to make from the Barbadians, and now make it better than their teachers. At first our northern colonies took off all that they made; but when they came to excell in the goodness of it, so that they found it would answer better to send it to England, they raised the price so high, that now very little of it is taken from Jamaica by our northern colonies. In fine, if the northern colonies and Great Britain now actually take off all the sugar, rum, and melasses, which our sugar islands can possibly produce; and our northern colonies moreover take off such vast quantities of rum and melasses from the French of Martinico, and likewise get a great deal from Surinam, Guadaloupe, Granada, Cape François, Cayenne, &c. should all but our own sugar, rum, and melasses, be absolutely prohibited, many great inconveniences would follow; for 1st, we should lose the employment of several thousand tons of shipping, in the trade between the northern colonies and those foreign sugar colonies: 2dly, the northern colonies could not possibly be supplied with near the quantity of rum and melasses which they need for carrying on their most profitable trades: 3dly, this would put a most dangerous monopoly into the hands of our own sugar-planters, so that the Indian and fishery trades of our colonies could not afford to pay the rates which would be demanded, even supposing our islanders could make sufficient quantities of those goods for both the American and British consumption: 4thly, it would greatly increase the French shipping and navigation, not only in bringing lumber, horses, &c. to their own sugar islands, but in carrying thence to Europe all their rum and melasses, where no doubt they would find markets for them, as they already do for their sugars, by underselling us in Holland, and at Hamburgh, Cadiz, &c.: 5thly, and if the complaint of the Barbadians be true, that their lands

are so worn out, that it requires the labour of three negroes to produce as much sugar as could formerly be raised by the labour of one, they need but remove to Jamaica, where they may have excellent fresh land enough; and as the value of such new land is a trifle, when compared to the value of the stock required for a sugar plantation, which is the main article for establishing such a plantation, they have that entire to carry along with them to Jamaica; and the charge and trouble of their removing thither would be amply compensated by the abundant product of those new lands, and which consequently would enable them to undersell the French and Dutch plantations, the only seeming means left for recovering the trade of the re-exportation of our sugars: 6thly, from the foreign sugar colonies our northern colonists bring back considerable quantities of gold and silver, along with their sugar, rum, and melasses, whereby they are enabled to make payments for the vast quantities of product and manufactures, which they take of their mother country, and which, without this trade so much complained of, they could not possibly do. Lastly, to prohibit the northern colonists from purchasing of the foreign colonies their sugar, rum, and melasses, or even to lay high duties on them, would utterly destroy a commerce, without which they cannot possibly carry on their fisheries, their trade for peltry with the Indians, or their navigation. Neither could they dispose of the product of their lands and labour, a great part of the profits whereof centers in Great Britain, in payment of the manufactures, &c. they have from thence. Upon the whole, the secret and real view of the sugar islands is to gain the absolute monopoly of sugar and rum (with respect to the subjects of Great Britain) to themselves; that so they may have it in their power to exact what prices they shall please from the buyers.

Notwithstanding all these plausible allegations on both sides, in a matter of great importance to our commercial interests, there was nothing legally decided till the year 1733. And indeed, where such material alterations are required to be made in a long-established, or even connived, course of any important branch of commerce, great and serious deliberation, and mature observation and consideration, seem absolutely requisite in a nation, whose principal support depends so much on commerce and plantations.

1732.—By a statute of the 5th year of King George II, [c. 17] one million of money was paid off the South-sea company's capital stock, out of the sinking fund, from midsummer 1732; but the company having a large bond debt, (occasioned by the mismanagements in the year 1720) their general court, instead of dividing the money to the proprietors, agreed to pay off one million of bonds therewith, whereby so much of their capital stock was annihilated, being  $6\frac{1}{4}$  per cent, which was accordingly written off from each proprietor's account.

The manufacture of hats being long since brought to perfection in England, and great quantities thereof annually exported to foreign parts, and particularly to the British American plantations, till of late years, that great quantities of hats have been made in the northern plantations, and from thence exported to foreign markets, which were heretofore supplied therewith from Great Britain, for remedy thereof it was enacted, that no hats or felts whatever should be exported from any of the plantations to foreign parts, nor be loaden on any horse, cart, or other carriage, with that intent, under forfeiture thereof, and of £500 for every such offence, and aiders or abettors therein forfeit £40, and custom-house officers, permitting entries of such hats to be made, forfeit their office and £500. None are permitted to make hats in the colonies, but such as have served an apprenticeship thereto of seven years; and no master to have at any time above two apprentices, nor employ any negro in that manufacture. [5 *Geo. II, c. 22.*] The conveniences, in point of cheapness, which the Americans have beyond their mother country, by the plenty of beaver, hare, coney-wool, and many other furs, gave them such advantages, that had they not been thus restrained, they would soon have supplied all the world with hats. And as our people are continually increasing in those plantations, we can scarcely too often inculcate the opinion of knowing and intelligent men, that nothing will be able to prevent those people from manufactures interfering with ours, but their being constantly employed in raising naval stores, and other rough materials for our own manufactures, such as silk, flax, hemp, iron, &c. \*

Considerable quantities of coffee being by this time produced in, and imported from, Jamaica into Britain, the legislature, for its encouragement in our British plantations, reduced the inland duty thereof coming from thence, (but of none other) from 2s to 1/6 per lb. weight. [5 *Geo. II, c. 24.*] It seems that the French at Martinico, Hispaniola, and at the Isle de Bourbon near Madagascar, had somewhat the start of us in this new production, as had also the Dutch at Surinam; yet none such as yet comes up to the coffee of Arabia, from whence all the rest of the world originally had theirs. But in length of time, our people, as well as those of other nations, may bring it to perfection, whereby our colonies will be the better enabled to take off more of our product and manufactures, while we shall save a great deal of the price we now pay for the coffee of the East.

The South-sea company again ventured to send out their remaining 21 ships on the whale fishery. It was the last attempt they made for recovering to Great Britain that valuable branch of trade, as finding themselves

\* What did those knowing and intelligent men propose that the Americans should do, when their increased population should produce more silk, flax, hemp, iron, &c. than could be sold as rough materials? *M.*

to be very great losers thereby. Those ships brought home  $24\frac{1}{2}$  whales; which likewise proved a very losing voyage.

And now that company, having ventured fully as far as (and many thought farther than) in prudence they ought to have done in the whale fishery, in consideration of their having, for eight years together, been considerable losers, thought it high time to lay it aside entirely. Wherefor they sold off all their ships, stores, and utensils: and upon finally stating the accounts of this fishery, it appeared,

That their total disbursements on account of the Greenland whale fishery in the eight years, amounted to                      £262,172   9   6

And the total amount of the sale of their oil and whale-fins, as also of the sale of all their ships, stores, and utensils, was but                      -                      -                      84,390   6   6

So the net loss sustained by this Greenland fishery, in principal money alone, (without reckoning the interest on the money advanced in each of the eight years) was                      -                      -                      -

£177,782   3   0

It has been usually computed, that, if a Greenland ship brought home but three whales, it would be a reasonably-gainful voyage: but most unfortunately for the South-sea company, they had not, in all the eight years fishery, brought home at the rate of one entire whale per ship, taking one year with another. It has, moreover, been a maxim among the whale-fishing adventurers, that one good fishing year in seven, usually makes up the losses of six preceding bad years. But it was very unhappy that all those eight years happened to be bad, not only to the company, but to most of the adventurers of other nations. It must, however, be allowed by all, that this company, by sustaining so great a loss in endeavouring to promote so national a benefit, has greatly merited the favour of the public; and, moreover, that, if this fishery could have been brought to be profitable to the company, it would most certainly have been a gainful one to the nation, as will plainly appear in the following respects, viz.

By saving great sums of money sent annually beyond sea for the purchase of oil and whalebone, which we absolutely cannot be without.

By building and employing so great a number of stout ships as probably this company would have employed, (perhaps so far as 100) had success attended their fishery.

By the great number of good seamen, of whom this fishery is allowed to be an excellent nursery; the company actually employing annually 950 to 1100, besides those employed at the dock in sail-making and in the rope-yard, cooperage, &c.



By the number of ship-builders, coopers, rope-makers, sail-makers; and labourers; and also the employment given to butchers, bakers, brewers, distillers, painters, smiths, turners, flog-fellers, ship-chandlers, and all the other numerous trades depending on the outfit of shipping.

Lastly, by the benefit accruing to the landed interest from the great quantity of provisions of various kinds, consumed by the men in those ships, as well as to the public revenue by the excise and customs paid for liquors and many other things used in this trade.

Now, if from laying aside this one small branch of trade, so many persons were dismissed to the wide world, to shift for themselves and families; and so many trades and occupations were to suffer a considerable diminution of their former annual emoluments; (as by the print of Hercules's foot, they framed a judgement of his whole bulk and stature) we are, in some measure enabled, on the one hand, to frame an idea of the vast profit arising to this nation from its present general and total foreign commerce: as, on the other hand, we may form a clear judgement of the inexpressible misery, depopulation, and desolation, which a general decay of commerce would bring upon this now happy nation. It may not therefor be amiss, on this occasion, to exhibit the whole quantity of the provisions of all kinds expended by the South-sea company in their eight years whale-fishery, as a farther (though but small) testimony of the benefits accruing to the public by our navigation and commerce, viz. beef and pork 1380 hundred weight 2 quarters 15 pounds: beer 466 tons 1 barrel 22 gallons: stockfish 10 tons 9 cwt.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  quarters: brandy 1758 $\frac{1}{2}$  gallons; butter 448 firkins; cheese 240 cwt. 3 quarters 2 lb.; peas and oatmeal 1157 $\frac{1}{2}$  bushels; bread and flour 1044 cwt. 2 quarters 14 lb.; grout or grots 110 hogheads. All which provisions cost the company no less a sum than £43,768 : 2 : 3.

The Dutch East-India company resolved to make a dividend of 25 per cent to their proprietors for this year, to be paid in May 1733. This shews the great profits, as well as the prudent management, of that company, who (it is said) never yet divided at any one time the entire profits they made by their vast commerce, but always reserved what we call a nest-egg, for accidents. While, on the other hand, the Dutch West-India company, who at first, and for some time, made vast profits by their commerce, took a quite contrary course, by making large and extravagant dividends, which raised the nominal, but depressed the real and intrinsic, value of their stock. So that when their first difficulty came upon them from the Portuguese, in the middle of the last century, they had not means sufficient to prevent their being driven out of Brasil, to their inexpressible loss. And the like happened to that company a few years after, when they were driven out of New-York and New-Jersey, and hundreds of families who had ventured their all in that



company were undone. A lesson for all such trading companies to use the greatest caution in their dividends.

In this same year Pope Clement XII erected his city of Ancona, on the Adriatic shore, into a free port for all nations, bestowing on such persons and families as should settle there, sundry considerable exemptions from taxes and burdens, and from duties, &c. on such foreign ships as should resort to that port for commerce. This has since had some considerable effect, that city and port being now more frequented than formerly.

The prosperity of the kingdom of Ireland being very much for the interest and glory of Great Britain, the wealth, strength, and populousness, thereof undoubtedly contributing to our own; we shall here observe, that an ingenious anonymous piece was published this year, in vindication of that country from the clamours raised about the clandestine trade of running wool and woollen goods from Ireland to foreign parts, with the best remedy for the same, (in a *Letter to a member of parliament.*)

In general the author undertakes to shew, that, though the quantity of wool and woollen yarn sent from Ireland to England be less at present than formerly, and is daily decreasing, yet it is not occasioned by a greater quantity thereof being run beyond sea, but from other causes; which he introduces by shewing the total quantities of wool and yarn imported into England in different periods, from 1687 downward; and that, in proportion to the gradual decrease of that importation, Ireland generally has increased in people; because, meeting with other employment, first by tillage, and since by their linen manufactures, they have bred much fewer sheep, having turned much of their sheep-walks into tillage, and the pasture fit for black cattle and horses.

He observes, that in the year 1672 the people of Ireland were computed to amount to 1,100,000, and in 1684 they were 1,200,000: that soon after King William's reduction of Ireland they did not exceed 1,040,000, (occasioned doubtless by so many of their papists going beyond sea to France, Spain, &c.) But that in the year 1725 they were risen again to at least 1,670,000 people. That the devastation in 1641, and the encouragement given to papists towards the end of King Charles II's reign, discouraged protestants from settling there; and those there already being indolent, by reason of the cheapness of land and provisions, the bulk of their lands (the people being few) was employed in grazing cattle and sheep, which occasioned a great increase of the exportation of wool to England: that the great increase of people there about the year 1725, by the increase of their linen and other manufactures, having brought thither much more wealth, more tillage was wanted, and the sheep-walks were much lessened. Thus he thinks it evident, that the decrease of the importation of wool and yarn to Eng-

land does not proceed from a greater, or indeed so great, a quantity thereof being at this time run beyond sea, but merely from the later causes, and also from the increase of dairies, and from the consumption of more sheep and wool, to feed and clothe their people.

It was therefor a very wise measure in England to encourage the linen and hempen manufactures of Ireland, as the only effectual way to employ their poor, and prevent the increase of their wool, as may be seen by the few sheep that are now in the linen counties, compared to former times, more particularly in the province of Ulster, wherein the linen manufacture is universally spread, they not having sheep enow to supply their markets with food, nor the people with clothing. In most part also of the other three provinces of Ireland, the sheep-walks are constantly decreasing, and tillage, dairy, and feeding of black cattle and horses, increasing along with the linen manufacture, spreading fast into most counties. And, though it is not denied, that small quantities of wool, and its manufactures, are still clandestinely exported, yet it does not go out in such quantity as has been imagined from the decrease of the export of wool and yarn to England. Our brethren of England may therefor see, (says this ingenious Irishman) that, if prudent measures be taken, Ireland in a little time will have no more wool, nor woollen manufacture, than is necessary for its own consumption.

Thus, continues he, even the greatest part of the wool of Ireland is now necessary to employ the clothiers in Dublin, who supply most parts of that kingdom with woollen goods. It is also certain, that most of the woollen and bay yarn spun in the west of Ireland, as well as a great quantity from Dublin, is exported to England.

We shall only add hereunto, that, as the quantity of all kinds of linen imported into the port of London alone, in only the year 1731, was very near 14 millions of ells, from Holland, Germany, and the East country, the greatest part of which is again exported to our plantations in America and our factories in Africa, &c. and as the poor of Scotland and Ireland generally live nearly as cheap as the poor in those foreign countries, it is to be hoped, that all manner of encouragement will be given (as indeed has in a great measure already been done) for their manufacturing the same, instead of foreign nations; but most especially instead of the people of Russia, Poland, and Prussia, to whom we pay a great annual balance in money for their linen, naval stores, &c.

The number of ships belonging to the port of London, according to Mr. Maitland's account for the year 1732, which, in his Survey of London, he says was taken from the general register at the custom-house, was 1417 vessels from 15 to 750 tons, containing 178,557 tons, and navigated by 21,797 men: of which ships there were 130 from 300 to

500 tons, and 83 from 200 to 300 tons; all the rest were under 200 tons, excepting the South-sea company's great ship of 750 tons.

The cargoes of ten Dutch East-India ships which arrived this year from Batavia, may be worth recording in this work, viz. 10,700 pieces of silk stuffs, and 81,985 lb. weight of Bengal raw silk; 86,515 pieces of calicoes; 1,419,427 lb. of black, white, and long, pepper; 653,552 lb. tea; 389,940 lb. nutmegs; 136,906 lb. mace; 128,000 lb. of cinnamon; 924,341 lb. sugar, powdered and candied; 80,000 pots candied nutmegs; 6850 lb. of cardamums; 1,872,375 lb. Java coffee; 5200 lb. cubebs; 592,028 lb. saltpetre; 11,700 lb. benzoin; 1015 lb. borax; 200 lb. aguil-wood; 285,069 lb. Caliatour-wood; 125,419 lb. cowries; 72,843 lb. cotton-yarn; 17,100 lb. gumlack; 1500 pieces of walking canes; 11,222 lb. indigo; 21,487 lb. curcuma; 1810 lb. mother-of-pearl; 1445 lb. China-root; 556,215 lb. Sapan-wood; 64 lb. powder of pearl; 23,600 lb. Malacca tin; and 67,141 lb. Siam tin; (besides a rough diamond, 2 diamond rings, and 2 gold boxes).

This year a number of gentlemen of distinction and worth set on foot one of the most disinterested, charitable, and benificent, designs that was ever undertaken. Hitherto all our American colonies were professedly planted for the immediate benefit of the undertakers: but this was solely for a national and charitable purpose, without any other benefit to the undertakers than what results from the pleasure of doing good. Most of them were members of parliament, who having lately had occasion to observe the misery of the prisoners, confined in our gaols for debt, were thence moved with compassion for the relief of such unfortunate objects, who, were they settled in some new colony in our plantations, might, instead of a burden and disgrace, prove a great benefit to the nation; and that moreover many persecuted protestants from beyond sea might take the benefit of such a colony for setting up their rest there, with the free enjoyment of their civil and religious liberties. There was a great part of the charter-limits of South-Carolina, next to Florida, still unplanted, which it was highly the interest of Great Britain to occupy, and plant as soon as possible, lest either the Spaniards from Florida, or the French behind it, from the Mississippi, should seize on and plant what they so found unoccupied; more especially as the later people greatly lament their not having a footing on any part of the eastern shores of North-America, so as to communicate more easily with their sugar-islands, their voyages to and from their Mississippi colony being by no means so convenient for carrying provisions, lumber, &c. which therefor they were still obliged to take from our British continental colonies. This vacancy then was judged absolutely requisite to be filled up as soon as possible.

These reasons were sufficiently cogent for gentlemen of so public-spirited a character and disposition to make the attempt. But first they

were to be authorized by his majesty's perpetual charter, which they obtained on the 9th of June this year; empowering 21 gentlemen by name, and such others as they should from time to time elect into their body, to be trustees for establishing the colony, therein named Georgia in America, bounded between the most northern stream of the river Savannah, and the most southern stream of the river Alatamaha, stretching above 100 miles along the sea-coast, and extending westward from the heads of the said rivers in direct lines to the South sea, with the islands within 20 leagues of the sea-coast. The trustees were empowered to receive and manage the contributions of all persons and corporations inclined to give money for transporting people to, and settling them in, the said country. This corporation was made capable in law to hold and purchase lands, &c. in Great Britain, to the value of £1000 yearly, and in America to an unlimited value, for the said charitable purpose. Their common-council to consist of 15 persons, with power to make them up 24, as they afterwards did. They were to pay annually to the crown 4/ for every 100 acres of land granted to the planters, the quit-rent to begin to be paid 10 years after the respective dates of such grants. Georgia to remain forever an independent province; save only that its militia shall be commanded by the governor of South-Carolina: but the government of the colony in other respects to be in the trustees for 21 years, at the expiration of which it was to be vested in the crown. Liberty of conscience and freedom of worship allowed to all its inhabitants, papists alone excepted. Lands to be granted to any person, not exceeding 500 acres, on such terms as to the common-council should seem proper. No trustee to hold lands nor office in Georgia. The grants of lands to be registered here in the office of the auditor of the plantations. With respect to the progress made by those trustees, it may be truly said, that they took all possible pains for executing the trust: they erected two good towns, Savannah and Frederica, at the north and south extremities of the province, besides several villages and small forts, and one more considerable one among the Indians, called Augusta, with a small garrison for the protection of the Indian trade, 240 miles west from the sea, up the river Savannah. They made a common nursery-garden of white mulberry trees, for the production of silk. They procured foreign vine-dressers to improve the native vines, which in great abundance run up the tallest trees, and bear small grapes; and they have also sent thither many sorts of vines from Europe; as also some Piedmonteses, skilled in the winding of silk, and tending the silk-worms. For several years also they and other lords and gentlemen, by subscription, maintained a travelling professor of botany for collecting the most precious plants and seeds in various American climates, to be transplanted to Georgia. Yet, by having several idle drones, drunkards, and downright rogues, the prosperity of

this colony was at first much retarded, as it was also by frequent alarms from the Spaniards ; and, it must be confessed, in part also, by an ill-judged, though well-meant, utopian scheme for limiting the tenure of lands, and for the exclusion of negro slaves, both which mistakes have since been rectified. By the planting of Georgia, Carolina has felt the benefit of being able to run out (as they term it) much land, which, till that new frontier barrier was established, they had no inclination to do, whereby those lands have been raised to five times their former value about Port-royal, and toward the river Savannah. Georgia, therefore, cannot fail to be of great service to us on many accounts. The British navy may, in its bays and harbours, in case of a war, safely lie in wait for the Spanish galleons, or for the French from Mississippi, in going to Europe through the dangerous gulf of Florida, while the neighbouring Spanish port of St. Augustine is almost choaked up with sand. The trustees of Georgia erected a fort in the nation of the Upper Creeks, almost 400 miles from the sea, and not above 40 miles from the nearest French fort in Mississippi, whereby all that tract of country is kept possession of for us.

Georgia produces a great variety of excellent plants and drugs ; orange trees in some parts of it : great plenty of horses and black cattle are already raised ; and the Saltburgers of Ebenezer long since raised more corn than they consumed. There is plenty of wild fowl, and also fish on its coasts. And since it has fallen under the government of the crown, it gradually increases in people and improvements more and more.

The court of Spain was this year put upon a project for erecting an East-India company, to trade to the Philippine isles directly from Cadiz, by the Cape of Good Hope. And though it concerned all the other European nations trading to India, yet it more especially concerned the Dutch, to oppose it, as it is directly contrary to the later part of the 5th article of the treaty of Munster, in the year 1648, between Spain and them ; and as the same article was lately successfully made use of against the Ostend company of the Spanish or Austrian Netherlands, it may be yet more strongly opposed to the erection of this new company, viz. ' it is stipulated and agreed, that the Spaniards shall confine their navigation in the East-Indies in such manner as it is at present possessed by them, without having it in their power to extend the same any farther : as, also, the inhabitants of the Netherlands shall abstain from frequenting those places which belong to the Castilians in the East-Indies.' Now the East-India trade, as then possessed by Spain, was practised solely from New-Spain to the Philippines, and back to the port of Acapulco ; but no East-India trade at all from Spain by the way of the Cape of Good Hope ; wherefor the Dutch at this time most



justly and zealously, and in the end effectually, opposed so palpable a contravention of that treaty.

Pursuant to an order of the British house of commons, directed to the lords commissioners of trade and plantations in the later end of the last, or the beginning of this year, relating to the dispute still subsisting between the sugar colonies, and the northern continental colonies of America, that board reported, with respect to laws made, manufactures set up, or trade carried on, there, detrimental to the trade, navigation, or manufactures, of Great Britain, as follows, viz.

With respect to the laws, it is premised, ' that many of the British colonies in America are immediately under the government of the crown, namely, Nova-Scotia, New-Hampshire, the Jerseys, New-York, Virginia, the two Carolinas, Bermudas, the Bahama islands, Jamaica, Barbados, and the Leeward islands. Others are vested in proprietors, as Pennsylvania, Maryland; and not long since the Bahamas, and the two Carolinas also.

' There are likewise three charter governments. The chief of these is Massachusetts-bay, called New England, the constitution whereof is of a mixed nature, where the power seems to be divided between the king and the people, but in which the people have much the greater share; for here the people do not only choose the assembly, as in other colonies, but the assembly chooses the council also, and the governor depends on the assembly for his annual support, which has too frequently laid the governors of this province under temptations of giving up the prerogative of the crown, and the interest of Great Britain. The two remaining provinces, Connecticut and Rhode-island, are charter governments also, or rather corporations, where almost the whole power of the crown is delegated to the people; for they choose their assembly, their council, and their governor, likewise annually, and hold little or no correspondence with our office.

' It is not surprising that governments, constituted like these last mentioned, should be guilty of many irregularities in point of trade, as well as in other respects.

' All these colonies, however, by their several constitutions, have the power of making laws for their better government and support, provided they be not repugnant to the laws of Great Britain, nor detrimental to their mother country.

' And these laws, when they have regularly passed the council and assembly of any province, and received the governor's assent, become valid in that province, repealable, however, by his majesty in council, upon just complaint, and do not acquire a perpetual force, unless confirmed by his majesty in council.

' But there are some exceptions to this rule in the proprietary and charter governments; for in the province of Pennsylvania they are



‘ only obliged to deliver a transcript of their laws to the privy council  
 ‘ within *five years* after they are passed ; and if his majesty does not think  
 ‘ fit to repeal them in *six months* from the time such transcript is so de-  
 ‘ livered, it is not in the power of the crown to repeal them afterwards.

‘ In the Massachusetts-bay also, if their laws are not repealed within  
 ‘ *three years* after they have been presented to his majesty, for his ap-  
 ‘ probation or disallowance, they are not repealable by the crown after  
 ‘ that time.

‘ The provinces of Maryland, Connecticut, and Rhode-island, not  
 ‘ being under any obligation by their respective constitutions, to return  
 ‘ authentic copies of their laws to the crown for approbation or disal-  
 ‘ lowance, or to give any account of their proceedings, we are very little  
 ‘ informed what is doing in any of these governments.

‘ All the governors of the colonies, who act under the king’s appoint-  
 ‘ ment, ought, within a reasonable time, to transmit home authentic  
 ‘ copies of the several acts by them passed, to go through a proper ex-  
 ‘ amination.

‘ The following complaints have, however, been lately made to this  
 ‘ board against some plantation-laws, viz.

‘ In Massachusetts-bay an act was made to encourage the manufacture  
 ‘ of paper, which law interferes with the profit made by the British  
 ‘ merchant on foreign paper sent thither, being almost the only sort of  
 ‘ paper sent thither.

‘ In New-York there is a duty of L2, (or five ounces of silver) laid  
 ‘ on all negroes imported from Africa, and of L4 on all negroes import-  
 ‘ ed from any other place.

‘ In New-England, New-York, Connecticut, Rhode-island, Pennsylv-  
 ‘ ania, and in the county of Somerset, in Maryland, they have fallen  
 ‘ into the manufacture of woollen cloth and linen cloth, for the use of  
 ‘ their own families only.

‘ For the product of those colonies being chiefly cattle and grain, the  
 ‘ estates of the inhabitants depended wholly on farming, which could  
 ‘ not be managed without a certain quantity of sheep ; and their wool  
 ‘ would be entirely lost, were not their servants employed during win-  
 ‘ ter in manufacturing it for the use of their families.

‘ Flax and hemp being likewise easily raised, the inhabitants manu-  
 ‘ factured them into a coarse sort of cloth, bags, traces, and halters, for  
 ‘ their horses, which they found did more service than those they had  
 ‘ from any part of Europe. However, the high price of labour in ge-  
 ‘ neral in America rendered it impracticable for people there to ma-  
 ‘ nufacture their linen cloth at less than 20 per cent more than the rate  
 ‘ in England, or woollen cloth at less than 50 per cent dearer than that  
 ‘ which is exported from hence for sale. It were to be wished, that  
 ‘ some expedient might be fallen upon to divert their thoughts from

‘ undertakings of this nature ; so much the rather, because those manufactures, in process of time, may be carried on in a greater degree, unless an early stop be put to their progress, by employing them in naval stores. Wherefor we take leave to renew our repeated proposals, that reasonable encouragement be given to the same. Moreover, we find that certain trades carried on, and manufactures set up there, are detrimental to the trade, navigation, and manufactures of Great Britain. For the state of those plantations varying almost every year, more or less, in their trade and manufactures, as well as in other particulars, we thought it necessary for his majesty’s service, and for the discharge of our trust, from time to time, to send certain general queries to the several governors in America, that we might be the more exactly informed of the condition of the plantations, among which there were several that related to their trade and manufactures, to which we received the following returns, viz.

‘ The governor of New-Hampshire, in his answer, said, that there were no settled manufactures in that province, and that their trade principally consisted in lumber and fish.

‘ The governor of Massachusetts-bay informed us, that in some parts of this province the inhabitants worked up their wool and flax into an ordinary coarse cloth for their own use, but did not export any. That the greatest part of the woollen and linen clothing, worn in this province, was imported from Great Britain, and sometimes from Ireland ; but, considering the excessive price of labour in New-England, the merchants could afford what was imported cheaper than what was made in that country. That there were also a few hat-makers in the maritime towns ; and that the greater part of the leather used in that country was manufactured among themselves ; that there had been for many years some iron works in that province, which had afforded the people iron for some of their necessary occasions ; but that the iron imported from Great Britain was esteemed much the best, and wholly used by the shipping. And that the iron works of that province were not able to supply the twentieth part of what was necessary for the use of the country.

‘ They had no manufactures in the province of New-York, that deserved mentioning : their trade consisted chiefly in furs, whalebone, oil, pitch, tar, and provisions.

‘ No manufactures in New-Jersey, that deserve mentioning : their trade being chiefly in provisions shipped from New-York and Pennsylvania.

‘ The chief trade of Pennsylvania lay in the exportation of provisions and lumber ; no manufactures being established, and their clothing and utensils for their houses being all imported from Great Britain.

‘ By further advices from New-Hampshire, the woollen manufacture

‘ appears to have decreased, the common lands on which the sheep used to feed, being now appropriated, and the people almost wholly clothed with woollen from Great Britain. The manufacture of flax into linen, some coarser, some finer, daily increased by the great resort of people from Ireland thither, who are well skilled in that business. And the chief trade of this province continued, as for many years past, in the exportation of naval stores, lumber, and fish.

‘ By later accounts from Massachusetts-bay in New-England, the assembly have voted a bounty of 30/ for every piece of duck or canvas made in the province. Some other manufactures are carried on there, as brown Hollands for women’s wear, which lessens the importation of calicoes, and some other sorts of East-India goods. They also make some small quantities of cloth, made of linen and cotton, for ordinary shirting and sheeting. By a paper-mill set up three years ago, they make to the value of £200 sterling yearly. There are also several forges for making bar iron, and some furnaces for cast iron, or hollow ware, and one slitting mill, and a manufacture of nails.

‘ The governor writes concerning the woollen manufacture, that the country people, who used formerly to make most of their clothing out of their own wool, do not now make a third part of what they wear, but are mostly clothed with British manufactures. The same governor, (Belcher) by some of his letters of an older date, in answer to our annual queries, writes, that there are some few copper mines in this province, but so far distant from water-carriage, and the ore so poor, that it is not worth the digging. The surveyor-general of his majesty’s woods writes, that they have in New-England six furnaces and nineteen forges for making iron; and that in this province many ships are built for the French and Spaniards, in return for rum, melasses, wines, and silks, which they truck there by connivance. Great quantities of hats are made in New-England, of which the company of hatters of London have likewise lately complained to us. That great quantities of those hats are exported to Spain, Portugal, and our West-India islands. They also make all sorts of iron work for shipping. There are several still-houses and sugar-bakers established in New-England.

‘ By later advices from New-York, there are no manufactures there that can affect those of Great Britain. There is yearly imported into New-York a very large quantity of the woollen manufactures of this kingdom, for their clothing, which they would be rendered incapable to pay for, and would be reduced to the necessity of making for themselves, if they were prohibited from receiving from the foreign sugar colonies, the money, rum, sugar, melasses, cacao, indigo, cotton-wool, &c. which they at present take in return for provisions, horses, and lumber, the produce of that province, and of New-Jersey, of

‘ which, he affirms, the British sugar colonies do not take off above one half. But the company of hatters of London have since informed us, that hats are manufactured in great quantities in this province.

‘ By the last letters from the deputy-governor of Pennsylvania, he does not know of any trade carried on in that province, that can be injurious to this kingdom. They do not export any woollen or linen manufactures; all that they make, which are of a coarser sort, being for their own use. We are farther informed, that in this province are built many brigantines and small sloops, which they sell to the West-Indies.

‘ The governor of Rhode-island informs us, in answer to our queries, that there are iron mines there; but not a fourth part iron enough to serve their own use. But he takes no notice of any sort of manufacture set up there.

‘ No return from the governor of Connecticut. But we find by some accounts, that the produce of this colony is timber, boards, all sorts of English grain, hemp, flax, sheep, black cattle, swine, horses, goats, and tobacco. That they export horses and lumber to the West-Indies, and receive in return, sugar, salt, melasses, and rum. We likewise find that their manufactures are very inconsiderable; the people there being generally employed in tillage; some few in tanning, shoemaking, and other handicrafts; others in building, and joiner’s, tailor’s, and smith’s, work, without which they could not subsist.’

No report is made concerning Carolina, the Bahama nor the Bermuda isles: and as for Newfoundland it is scarcely to be called a plantation, and Hudson’s-bay not at all.

‘ By the last returns which we have had from the sugar islands, we do not find that they have any other manufactures established, besides those of sugar, melasses, rum, and indigo, of their own produce. These, with cotton, aloes, pimento, and some other productions of less note, are their whole dependence, which are commodities noway interfering with the manufactures of this kingdom. In the year 1724, Mr. Worley, then governor of Barbados informed us, that of cotton they made hammocks, a few stockings, and nets for horses.

‘ From the foregoing state, it is observable, that there are more trades carried on, and manufactures set up, in the provinces on the continent of America to the northward of Virginia, prejudicial to the trade and manufactures of Great Britain, particularly in New-England, than in any other of the British colonies; which is not to be wondered at: for their soil, climate, and produce, being pretty near the same with ours, they have no staple commodities of their own growth to exchange for our manufactures; which puts them under greater necessity, as well as under greater temptation, of providing for themselves at home; to which may be added, in the charter governments, the little

‘ dependence they have upon the mother country, and consequently  
 ‘ the small restraints they are under in any matters detrimental to her  
 ‘ interests.

‘ And therefor, we would humbly beg leave to report and submit  
 ‘ to the wisdom of this honourable house, the substance of what we  
 ‘ formerly proposed in our report on the silk, linen, and woollen, manu-  
 ‘ factures herein before recited; namely, whether it might not be ex-  
 ‘ pedient to give those colonies proper encouragements for turning their  
 ‘ industry to such manufactures and products, as might be of service to  
 ‘ Great Britain, and more particularly to the production of all kinds of  
 ‘ naval stores.’ (Signed) ‘ PAUL DOCKMINIQUE, &c \*. Whitehall, Feb-  
 ‘ ruary 15, 1731-2.’

From the foregoing report, the great usefulness of the institution of the board of trade and plantations may evidently be seen; notwithstanding it too plainly appears also, that in answer to their annual queries sent to our plantations, the governors of the northern colonies, as in the instances above of New-York and Pennsylvania, may frequently impose on that board, in favour of their respective governments; which, it is humbly apprehended, might be easily and effectually prevented by our British legislature.

We shall only say farther, that defective as the above report to parliament is, it is undoubtedly to be preferred to the accounts published by any private persons, and infinitely more so to such as are published by anonymous authors, who, for the most part, write for mere private interest, and oftentimes to misguide the unwary.

By this report also, the different constitutions and interests of our American colonies are clearly explained by undoubted authority; though we cannot but hope and wish, that the time will come, when all our American colonies may be fixed on one uniform regal and legal plan, however insuperable the difficulties of such a plan may seem to many, who perhaps have not duly considered, what a British king united to a British parliament can effect for removing all the obstacles resulting from the proprietary, charter, and mixed, constitutions of several of those colonies; more especially as the removal of some of those difficulties has been already effected in our own times.

1733.—England, and more particularly the city of London, being now become a great mart for diamonds, and other pretious stones and jewels, (according to the preamble to an act of parliament, for the free importation and exportation of diamonds, pearls, rubies, emeralds, and all other jewels and pretious stones) from whence most foreign countries are supplied, and great numbers of rough diamonds are sent from abroad to be cut and polished here, which is a great advantage to this nation;

\* There are several articles deficient in this abstract by Mr. Anderson, who has had an imperfect copy of the report: but, in the present state of America, they are not so interesting as when he wrote. M.

and there is great reason to believe, if the importation thereof was encouraged and made easy, the said trade would increase; it was therefor enacted, that diamonds, &c. might hereafter be imported, as before they might have been exported, free of all duty, in any ship or vessel whatsoever; with this only proviso, that this exemption shall not make void the duty granted to his majesty for the use of the East-India company, on those imported from places within their limits. [6 *Geo. II, c. 7.*]

The warm dispute between the British American sugar colonies, and the British northern colonies, begun in the year 1731, concerning the trade of the later with the French, Dutch, and Danish, sugar colonies, of whom they took off in exchange, for their provisions, horses, lumber, &c. considerable quantities of sugar, rum, and melasses, was now finally terminated, by a prudent temperament of an act of parliament [6 *Geo. II, c. 13*] for the better securing and encouraging the trade of his majesty's sugar colonies in America, the preamble to which sets forth, 'that whereas the welfare and prosperity of your majesty's sugar colonies in America are of the greatest consequence and importance to the trade, navigation, and strength, of this kingdom; and whereas the planters of the said sugar colonies have of late years fallen under such great discouragements, that they are unable to improve or carry on the sugar trade upon an equal footing with the foreign sugar colonies, without some advantage and relief be given to them from Great Britain: be it therefor enacted, I) that the several after-mentioned rates and duties be granted, viz. upon all rum of the foreign sugar colonies, which shall be imported into any of the British plantations in America, ninepence sterling for every gallon. Sixpence for every gallon of melasses, and five shillings on every hundred weight of sugars and paneles; to be paid down in ready money by the importers before their landing the same\*.'

II) That no sugars, paneles, syrups, or melasses, nor any rum or spirits of America, except of the growth of his majesty's sugar colonies, shall be imported into Ireland, but such only as shall be laden and shipped in Great Britain in ships navigated according to the navigation

\* The northern colonists considered this act as a cruel grievance, and little better than a total annihilation of their commerce; their trade with Britain being, as they asserted, supported solely by the money received in the foreign islands. If we may trust to the testimony of an American writer, this act 'hath never in any degree increased the royal revenue, or brought any other real advantage to the mother country. Neither hath it been at all more beneficial to the British sugar colonies, at whose instance it was procured. But although no salutary consequences have anywhere followed this act, yet many and great mischiefs and disadvantages, as well as corrupt and scandalous practices, have followed from it in all the Eng-

lish colonies. The merchants, unwilling to quit a trade, which was in a great measure the foundation of their whole circle of commerce, have gone into many illicit methods to cover them in still carrying it on; while the custom-house officers have made a very lucrative job of shutting their eyes, or at least of opening them no farther than their own private interest required'. [*Essay on the trade of the northern colonies, printed at Philadelphia, reprinted at London, 1764, p. 20.*] He might have added, that some of the revenue officers in the higher departments were believed to be deeply concerned in the smuggling trade, which this act produced. *M.*



laws, under forfeiture of ship and cargo: with sundry penalties on persons aiding in any clandestine importation; on persons obstructing custom-house officers; on custom-house officers conniving; on ship-masters suffering such clandestine importation. Moreover, on all sugars and panes imported into Great Britain, on which the duty has been paid, if exported within one year after, all the duty shall be repaid; and also two shillings per hundred-weight on all refined sugars exported from Great Britain, over and above the former allowances on exportation. Proviso, that nothing in this act shall be construed to extend to restrain the importation of sugars of the growth or produce of the dominions of Spain or Portugal, from places from whence such sugars might lawfully before have been imported. [6 Geo. II, c. 13.]

By an act of parliament, [6 Geo. II, c. 25] another million out of the sinking fund, was paid off the joint stock of South-sea annuities; whereby L6: 7: 6 per cent was paid to each proprietor, and written off from each respective account from the 29th of September 1733: the total joint stock of South-sea annuities being L15,651,099: 17: 5.

The king having, by proclamation, prohibited the circulation of the worn-out gold coins of twenty-five shillings, and twenty-three shillings, commonly called broad pieces, and the halves and quarters thereof; he also, for the ease of his people, directed the receivers of taxes, and also the officers of his mint, to receive them at L4: 1 per ounce troy, during one whole year to come: and that such of them as should be so brought to the mint should be coined into the current gold coins of the kingdom. And it being apprehended, that the advantage of so good an allowance as L4: 1 per ounce might tempt evil-minded persons to counterfeit them, another statute made it high treason to counterfeit any of the gold coins, commonly called broad pieces, or knowingly to utter such counterfeit old coins; and L40 reward was allowed to such as should discover the counterfeiters thereof. [6 Geo. II, c. 26.]

The royal African company of England was still in a very bad condition. For though the parliament had, every year since 1730, granted them L10,000 for the support of their forts and factories on the African coast, yet constantly continuing to be losers by their trade for negroes to America, as they had been for many years past, they at length resolved to confine themselves to the purchase of slaves on that coast, and selling them again to private traders to America, (to all whom the trade to Africa had been laid open by parliament, on granting the annual L10,000) and to employ their servants in carrying on a trade far up into the inland countries of Africa, for gold, elephants' teeth, bees-wax, drugs, dying woods, &c. Yet even that more contracted trade would not answer, so as to make any dividend on so small a capital stock as about L200,000. So far from it, that they were not able to get clear of their debts and other incumbrances, even though

they had greatly reduced the salaries and allowances of their officers and servants both at home and abroad, and had practised sundry other means of frugality. But it seems that their servants in Africa had shamefully imposed on their court of assistants, who at this time laid all these matters before their general court of proprietors; and that, as they had then nine ships of their own, they proposed, for increasing their assortments of goods at their several factories, and for driving on a large inland trade with the vast countries behind their forts and factories, to create bonds under the common seal, to the value of £20,000, bearing 4 per cent interest, which their general court agreed to. Yet, notwithstanding this, and that their court of assistants were gentlemen of character and credit, their affairs went continually retrograde, the private traders having always the advantage of them, as indeed will ever be the case in all branches of commerce, wherein trade is freely laid open to all.

A proposal being this year made by the court of Spain, to allow the South-sea company 2 per cent on the returns of the flota and galleons, as an equivalent for their annual ship, during the remainder of the company's term, that matter was debated in their general courts, but the consideration thereof was postponed. Yet we shall here briefly state what was then said in favour of that proposal, viz.

It was admitted by all sides, that the assiento contract for supplying Spanish America with negroes, was not only a greatly losing trade to this company, but was well known to have been so to all former assientoists.

The annual ship was therefor granted by Spain in compensation for that loss; which, however, (excepting the very last voyage, which returned from Porto-bello in the year 1731) had likewise proved a losing trade.

The bad success of this trade has been usually attributed to two principal causes, viz. to the frequent seizures made by Spain on the company's effects in America, which was likely ever to be the case, while the company had factors and considerable effects in the Spanish West-Indies, being an opportunity afforded to Spain to insult us, even on very insignificant occasions: and to the mismanagement of the company's factors and agents in America, who got large estates in a very few years, and some of them even in little more than one year, while the company continued to be such great losers. There were moreover frequent occasions taken by the court of Spain to obstruct the going out, and also the return of the annual ship, in due season, on account of her mensuration at home, or on some other frivolous pretext in America, in order thereby to give their flotas and flotillas the advantage.

It was therefor argued; by such as were for the company quitting the

trade entirely, and accepting an equivalent, that the not sending such a ship directly to the Spanish West-Indies will not in the least diminish the consumption of British commodities in that part of the world, as the same forts, and, as they alleged, greater quantities, of English goods will be sent thither (as before this assiento trade was granted) by the way of Cadiz, and from thence by their flotas and galleons to the West-Indies, or else smuggled to the Spanish West-Indies by the way of Jamaica and the Leeward islands.

The returns, on which the proposed 2 per-cent to the company was to arise, by the flota and galleons, and on the Spanish register ships, returning from those parts, to which the company have a right to send their annual ship, were computed to amount to at least 15 millions of pieces of eight; and 2 per cent thereon would be 300,000 dollars, or pieces of eight, or about L70,000 sterling.

On the other side of the question, it was admitted, that the company's adventure by their annual ship amounted to about L200,000 sterling; upon which there might be an advance of 75 per cent, or in all

|  |                    |   |   |          |                   |
|--|--------------------|---|---|----------|-------------------|
|  |                    |   |   |          | L350,000 0 0      |
|  | From which deduct, |   |   |          |                   |
| The cost,  | -                  | - | - | L200,000 | 0 0               |
| Seamen's wages and stores,                                   | -                  | - | - | 25,000   | 0 0               |
| Maintenance of servants, and presents abroad,                | -                  | - | - | 10,000   | 0 0               |
| Commission and privilege to supercargoes, &c.                | -                  | - | - | 20,000   | 0 0               |
| Interest on L200,000 for two years,                          | -                  | - | - | 16,000   | 0 0               |
| Extraordinary charges of management at home on this account, | -                  | - | - | 5,000    | 0 0               |
| Total cost,  | -                  | - | - |          | <hr/> 276,000 0 0 |

Estimated profit upon the annual ship, L74,000 0 0

This calculation is made exclusive of insurance, and of the risk of bad debts; and also on the supposition of an uninterrupted enjoyment of the trade, without any seizures or detentions of the ships. Nothing, however, was determined concerning this trade, which remained in suspense till it was entirely given up by treaty.

Though the preceding michaelmas gross sale of the East-India company's merchandize, including L70,000 brought home in gold for the general account, amounted to above L1,300,000, yet the company having so lately advanced L200,000 to the public for the prolongation of their privileges, and at the same time suffered an abatement of 1 per cent from the interest of their whole capital of L3,200,000, the court of directors, on mature consideration, proposed to reduce their dividend from *eight* to *six* per cent. Nevertheless, such was the unaccountable

humour of the majority of a general court, that, though their directors acquainted them that they persisted in their former opinion that not above three per cent could be prudently divided for the current half year, the ballot determined it by above two to one; for three and a half, even though they were then likewise told, that the secrecy proper to be observed by great trading societies can very seldom, if ever, admit of particular calculations to be laid before such popular assemblies as general courts; and though they well knew, that the directors were at least as much interested as most other proprietors in keeping up the dividends on their stock \*.

It is by no means foreign to our subject to observe, that a new and most hopeful corporation was now erected for promoting English protestant working schools in Ireland. The author of this work having at this time been somewhat useful in corresponding with Dr. Maule, then bishop of Dromore, for promoting the charter thereof, received of that bishop the following well vouched account of the number of people, both protestants and papists, in all Ireland, viz. that, by the bishop's books and other authentic vouchers, there were at least two millions of people in all Ireland, of which there were very near 600,000 protestants, and somewhat above 1,400,000 papists. About the same time there came out a printed list of the numbers of both religions in every county in Ireland, but, for brevity's sake, we shall content ourselves with the four great divisions, called provinces, of Ireland, viz.

|              |                      |        |                 |         |
|--------------|----------------------|--------|-----------------|---------|
| In Ulster,   | protestant families, | 62,620 | popish families | 38,459  |
| — Leinster,  | - - -                | 25,238 | - - -           | 92,424  |
| — Munster,   | - - -                | 13,337 | - - -           | 106,407 |
| — Connaught, | - - -                | 4,299  | - - -           | 44,133  |

Total, protestant families, 105,494      popish families 281,423  
which, at five to each family in the country, and ten for Dublin, and seven for Cork, makes in all 2,015,229 souls, very nearly corresponding with Bishop Maule's account.

The printed account makes the protestant families in Dublin to be - - - - - 8,823  
popish ones to be - - - - - 4,119

12,942

Which, at 10 to each family, makes the people of Dublin amount to - - - - - 129,420

Protestant families in the city of Cork, 2,569

Popish families, - - - - - 5,398

Total, - - - - - 7,967

Which, at seven to each family, makes 55,769 souls in Cork.

\* The dividend was reduced from *eight* to *seven* per cent in the year 1732; (see above, p. 154.) so the proprietors only *continued* the dividend: and it continued the same till midsummer 1743. *M.*

The king of Denmark's zeal for the prosperity of his subjects commerce, and more especially for that of his East-India company, prompted him this year to erect an insurance company at Copenhagen, in order to avoid sending to Amsterdam for insurances on their ships and merchandize; the king himself first subscribing a considerable sum into this new company, which was followed by the subscriptions of the courtiers, merchants, and others.

The proprietors of the South-sea company's capital stock being uneasy on account of their losses by their assiento and Greenland trades, their general court petitioned the parliament to enable them to divide their present capital stock of £14,651,103:8:1, into three fourth parts new South-sea annuity stock, and one fourth part to be the capital or trading corporation stock. It was therefor enacted, that the capital stock be divided, after midsummer 1733, into three fourths annuity stock, at four per cent, to be called the new joint stock of South-sea annuities, amounting, by the computation of this act, to £10,988,327:11/0 $\frac{1}{4}$ ; and the remainder, being £3,662,784:8:6\*, to be the sole capital, or trading stock, of the company, in its corporate capacity; the said new joint stock of South-sea annuities to be quite exempted from all concern with the company's debts, bonds, trade, &c. and to be an entire, unincumbered, annuity stock, redeemable by parliament, as by former statutes; the annuity to be payable at christmas and midsummer yearly. [6 Geo. II, c. 28.]

Whereas the master, wardens, and assistants, of the corporation of the trinity-house of Deptford-strond, in the county of Kent, have, by grants from the crown, the lastage and ballastage, and the sole right of supplying all ships and vessels with ballast, that sail, pass, and repass, in the river of Thames between London bridge and the main sea, at the rates and prices accustomed; and are also entitled to, and have a right to, dig, raise, and take up, the gravel, sand, and soil, of the river Thames, for ballasting such ships and vessels as aforesaid: and whereas the said master, wardens, and assistants, have for several years last past constantly employed 60 ballast-lighters and 120 men, to dig and raise ballast from the shelves and sand-banks of the river, and to carry and convey such ballast to ships and vessels having occasion for the same; and thereby the channel of the river hath been considerably deepened, and several obstructions to the navigation therein removed, therefor an act of the British parliament [6 Geo. II, c. 29] settles the prices to be hereafter paid to that corporation for ballast, and to their ballastmen; also the burden of ballast-lighters, &c. inundry respects too tedious and needless to be herein specified; the

\* This sum exceeds the real fourth part of the whole, by the fractional parts or odd pence, when writing off the three fourths from each proprietor's account, being added to the remaining fourth part. A.

above preamble being sufficient to explain to the reader the nature, &c. of this part of the business of the ballast-office of the trinity-house corporation.

The rice, exported from Carolina to Spain and Portugal, was now become so cheap in those two countries as to put almost an entire stop to the importation of that commodity from Venice and other parts of Italy; which gives room to hope that Carolina may soon engross all the trade of Europe for that fine grain. Besides rice, there were exported from Charlestown in South-Carolina, only within three months of this year, 6073 barrels of pitch, 1985 barrels of tar, and 424 barrels of turpentine. And in the whole year, 36,584 barrels of rice, 2802 barrels of pitch, 848 ditto of turpentine, 60 tons of lignum-vitæ, 20 tons of braileto wood\*, 27 tons of saffrafas, 8 chests of skins; beside lumber, pork, beef, peas, and Indian corn. This colony is continually increasing by the encouragement they give to new comers, both British and foreigners.

It was at this time computed, that within the compass of one year past no less than 800,000 quarters of corn had been exported from Great Britain to France, Portugal, Spain, and Italy; for which was paid by those nations (including the freight of our own ships) at least one million sterling: being all clear profit to the kingdom. How much therefor is the landed interest concerned in this particular respect (as well as in all others) in the advancement of Britain's foreign commerce?

Immediately before the South-sea company had finally determined to lay aside their Greenland whale-fishery, the directors had applied to government for a bounty on the fishery; and though it could not then be entirely brought about, yet, in the following year 1733, a bounty was granted by an act of parliament; for the farther encouragement of the whale-fishery, carried on by his majesty's British subjects, of 20s per ton on all ships fitted out in Great Britain, of 200 tons and upwards, for the whale-fishery, and navigated according to law. [6 Geo. II, c. 33.] Of this new bounty two ships, sent out this year by private adventurers, enjoyed the benefit, though not very much to the emolument of those adventurers.

Sundry reasons have been assigned for British subjects not hitherto succeeding in this fishery, and for the greater success of the Dutch therein, viz.

I) In general, the greater frugality of the Dutch, whereby (notwithstanding this our new bounty) they are enabled to undersell us in their oil and whalebone.

II) From the manner in which the Dutch carry on this and

\* The lignum-vitæ and braileto must have been imported into Carolina from the West-Indies. M.



their other fisheries: for the ship-builder, the cooper, the sail-maker, the rope-maker, the baker, brewer, distiller, and other tradesmen, employed in fitting out their ships, generally go each a share in the voyage: so that should it prove a fortunate fishing season, they are sure to be doubly gainers; and even if it should prove a bad fishery, they probably lose but little more than they had gained by supplying the outfit of such year in their respective branches; whereby they are better enabled to go on in that trade than mere merchants can do without these advantages\*. De Witt, in his *Interest of Holland*, [c. xvi] says, 'it is worthy of observation, that the Dutch Greenland company made formerly little profit by it; because of the great charge of setting out their ships: whereas now, that they equip their ships at the cheapest rate, follow their fishery diligently, and manage all carefully, the train-oil and whale-fins are employed for so many uses in several countries, and they can sell them with such conveniency, that there are now fifteen ships for one that formerly sailed from Holland on that fishery.'

III) By the re-exportation of a great part of the produce of such fishery, they are farther enabled to make up the loss of any bad year's fishery: whereas we have never as yet carried on a whale-fishery considerable enough to enable us to export any quantity of oil and whale-fins, nor indeed enough to supply ourselves at home. And we may add,

IV) The antient standing reason of the greater lowness of the interest of money in Holland till very lately.

There lies now before the author an account of the Dutch whale-fishing for 46 years, ending in 1721. In that space they employed 5886 ships†, and caught 32,907 whales; each of which, one with another, being usually valued at £500, makes the value of the whole amount to above sixteen millions sterling, gained out of the sea, mostly by the labour of the people; the wear and tear of the shipping, the casks and the provisions, excepted; which last three articles are also a vast benefit to the public, by the excise, &c. paid thereon, as well as to numberless individuals employed in providing them.

At the end of this same year the South-sea company's great annual ship, the *Royal Caroline*, arrived from Vera Cruz, after being long detained there, being the last annual ship which that company is ever like to see from the Spanish West-Indies; her cargo consisted of silver, in dollars or pieces of eight, cochineal, and indigo: yet, because of the violent detention, this was said to be a losing voyage to the company.

\* The same economy is practised in fitting out the fishing vessels at Yarmouth and Billingsgate; the butcher, the baker, rope-maker, sail-maker, grocer, cooper, mast-maker, twine-spinner, black-smith, and the master, being joint partners with the factor or salesman. [*Reports on the British fisheries*, 14th July 1785, p. 9; and 1800, pp. 119, 125, M.]

† Mr. Anderson must here be understood to mean so many departures or voyages; not 5886 separate vessels. The annual average amount is 128 vessels nearest. M.

1734.—Pursuant to an order of the house of peers, in the year 1734, we have the representation of the lords commissioners of trade and plantations, exhibiting an exact and curious state of the trade, people, and strength, of our islands in the West-Indies, viz.

‘ Jamaica, though having 19 parishes, has but 7644 white people on it; though its militia consists of 3000 men, horse and foot, dispersed all over the inhabited part of the island. They have six forts; and of late have had no fewer than eight independent companies of the king’s forces, each consisting of 100 men.’

The diminution of the white people of Jamaica is owing to the great decay of their private or illicit trade to the Spanish main, which drew thither many white people, who generally soon acquired great wealth, and returned therewith to their mother country, so that the Spanish money they got in Jamaica at length centered in England. From Jamaica our people privately carried all sorts of our manufactures, &c. to New Spain, which, it is well known, can only be legally carried thither by the flota and flotilla from Old Spain: they also carried thither great numbers of negroes.

‘ Our exports to Jamaica, at a medium of four years, from christmas 1728 to christmas 1732, were to the value of £147,675 : 2 : 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ , and our imports were £539,499 : 18 : 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Annual excess of our imports from Jamaica is £391,824 : 15 : 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ .

‘ Barbados has 18,295 white people; its militia consists of one troop and two regiments of horse, and of seven regiments of foot, in all 4812 men. In this island there are no fewer than 21 forts and 26 batteries, mounted with 463 cannon.’

All our sugar isles together are thought to produce annually 85,000 hogsheds of sugar, each hogshed containing 1200 cwt. or in all 1,020,000 cwt.; of which Great Britain is thought to consume annually 70,000 hogsheds, or 94,080,000 pounds of sugar; which, for ten millions of people, if so many there be in Britain, comes to 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs of sugar to each person, or if but eight millions of people, then about 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs of sugar to each person; and as there are undoubtedly about two millions and upwards of people in Ireland, we may omit them in this computation, as there may probably be near that number in all the British dominions who use little or no sugar at all.

It is computed, that 300 sail of ships go annually from Great Britain to the sugar islands, beside those which go thither from our continental colonies; and that about 4,500 seamen are employed in navigating them: and that there is annually exported thither to the value of £240,000 in British manufactures.

‘ In all the British Leeward islands, viz. St. Christophers, Antigua, Nevis, and Montserrat, with all their dependencies, Barbuda, An-

\* guilla, Spanishtown, Tortola, and the rest of the Virgin islands, there are 10,262 white people; and their militia consists of 3284 men\*.

\* The islands called the Bahamas are the next in those seas of importance to Great Britain; where Providence is the only island as yet of any consideration to us, or that is peopled in any degree. And here they have 500 white people, out of whom they have formed six companies of militia, beside one independant company in his majesty's pay. On this island they have two forts.

\* In Bermudas there were a few years since 5000 white people, of whom there are 1000 white men, beside officers, for their militia. They have one fort and six batteries.

Nothing is said in the report of that board of Newfoundland, which, indeed, is properly no colony, it having scarcely any soil capable of cultivation; and the forts and people there are solely for the protection and accommodation of the ships of our important cod fishery on the adjoining shoals, called the banks of Newfoundland, and also in its bays and harbours. Those garrisons are also requisite for preventing any other European nation from getting possession of the island, which would render our fishery there very precarious on a rupture with such nation, as it would also our communication with our northern colonies. Newfoundland, therefor, on these accounts, is of very great importance to us.

A committee of the proprietors of South-sea stock having inspected the state of the company's commerce to the Spanish West-Indies, it appeared, that the entire balance of that trade from the beginning, or of their ten years American or assiento trade, amounted to no more than L32,260:18 profit to the company. This was, by the proprietors of the stock, thought, and indeed was, a very inconsiderable profit, being but L3226 for each year of that trade. This it was which made the stockholders very earnest to accept the equivalent formerly proposed by the court of Spain: but those proprietors or stockholders considered only their own private advantage by that supposed equivalent. For as the king and his ministers must have been consulted, before such equivalent could be accepted by the company, there was a more important and extensive consideration to be duely weighed, viz. whether, by the very profitable illicit trade carried on by the company's supercargoes,

\* In the year 1736 the strength of the British Leeward islands was as follows.

|                  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|
| In Antigua       | - | 1500 men, two forts, and seven batteries. |
| St. Christophers | - | 1340 men, three forts, and six batteries. |
| Montserrat       | - | 360 men, one fort, and one battery.       |
| Nevis            | - | 300 men, one fort, and one battery.       |
| Anguilla         | - | 80 men.                                   |
| Spanishtown      | - | 72 men.                                   |
| Tortola          | - | 120 men.                                  |

3772 white men in all the British Leeward islands. A.

factors, captains, and other servants, employed by them in the Spanish West-Indies, and also under their wings from Jamaica, &c. the nation was not a greater gainer, upon the whole, than they could be by the proposed equivalent, and carrying back the trade to the channel of Cadiz, where, without doubt, our merchants had also a great interest in it. We must, however, now again leave this dispute for future consideration in its proper place.

In order to prevent frauds in stock-jobbing, by bargains for stocks bought or sold for a future time, by persons, on one hand, not possessed of such stock, and, on the other, by many not being in circumstances or ability to pay for such stock; for *puts*, also, and refusals of stocks\*, &c. whereby many unwary persons and their innocent families have been undone; it was now enacted, that all contracts and agreements whatsoever, upon which any premium shall be paid for liberty to *put* upon, or to deliver, receive, accept, or refuse, any public or joint stock, or other public securities whatsoever, or any part or share therein; and also all wagers, and contracts in the nature of wagers, or of puts and refusals, relating to the present or future price of any such stocks, shall be null and void to all intents and purposes whatsoever. And all premiums received upon such bargains shall be restored and repaid to the persons who shall have so paid them, and may be recovered by an action commenced within six months, with double costs; the first receivers of such premium to be obliged to answer upon oath. A penalty of £500 is hereby laid on all persons making such time-bargains or contracts, puts, and refusals; and all brokers, agents, and scriveners, transacting or writing any such contract, shall likewise forfeit the sum of £500, moiety to the king, moiety to the suer for the same. And for preventing the evil practice of compounding or making up differences for bargains on stock so sold, no money shall be voluntarily given or received on that account, or for not performing any such contract; but every such contract shall be specifically performed; and the stock or security thereby agreed to be assigned and transferred, shall be actually so done, and the whole money shall be paid for the same, under the forfeiture of £100 for every such compounding, &c. as aforesaid. Stock sold, and not paid for at the time prefixed, may be lawfully sold again to any other persons, and the buyer shall make good any damage sustained. Stock bought, and not transferred at the due time by the seller, the buyer may purchase other stock, and recover his damage. And whereas it is a frequent and mischievous practice, that persons sell stocks of which they are not possessed, it was enacted, that, for all contracts and agreements hereafter to be made, either for selling or buying such stocks, whereof the person contracting shall not be possessed at the time of such bargain, there shall be £500 penalty; as also £100 penalty on the

\* These terms have been already explained under the year 1695. A.

broker or agent for procuring such bargain, who shall hereafter keep a book or register, to be called the broker's book, wherein all such bargains shall be registered; and by his neglecting so to do, he shall incur the penalty of L50. Nothing herein, however, shall affect contracts for any stocks made with the privity of the accountant-general of the court of chancery, nor prevent any person from lending money on any public joint stock, or other public securities, on the redelivering thereof on repayment of the money lent, [7 *Geo. II*, c. 8]. Notwithstanding this strict law, we have reason to believe, that, even to our own time, there are many such illegal bargains still carried on, to the undoing of many.

By a statute [2 *Geo. II*, c. 22] it was made felony to steal bonds, notes, or other securities, for payment of money; and it was now farther enacted, that persons convicted of forging, altering, or counterfeiting, the acceptance of any bill of exchange, or the number or principal sum of any accountable receipt for any note, bill, or other security, for payment of money, or delivery of goods, should suffer death as felons. [7 *Geo. II*, c. 22].

On the 28th of March 1734, a general court of the South-sea company, upon the repeated representation of Sir Thomas Geraldino, the Spanish agent at London for the affairs of the assiento trade of that company, concerning the bad management of their factors, unanimously agreed to empower their court of directors to present an humble address to his majesty, desiring his royal consent to dispose of the trade and tonnage of the company's annual ship.

In Boyer's Political state of Great Britain, for the month of September this year, we find the following view of all the coinage of gold and silver in the tower of London, since the accession of George II to the throne, viz.

In gold, 43,940 pounds weight, which, at L44: 10 per pound, makes in tale L1,955,330. And in silver, only 8742 pounds weight, which, at L3: 2 per pound weight, makes in tale L27,100: 4. 'A very small sum,' says our author, 'in proportion to that coined in gold; and seems to be an evident proof that the current-value of the two metals is not justly proportioned in this kingdom, nor is indeed in any other part of Europe, as appears by the great profit that is to be got by carrying silver to the East-Indies and selling it for gold.' With this author's leave, what he remarks concerning carrying silver to India, would happen though the proportion between gold and silver, in all parts of Europe, were ever so justly ascertained; silver there being a mere commodity, or merchandize, and highly prized as such.

Great complaints came over from Nova-Scotia at this time, and particularly from the British settlement at Canso, a place of great consequence to our fishing trade in those parts, that though the late king had sent thither four companies of soldiers, yet there had been no money laid



out in fortifying that place : that they were particularly apprehensive of the encroachments of the French in their neighbourhood, who always are especially careful of their own fortifications ; and that, by our shameful neglect of Nova-Scotia, our fishery there was almost dwindled to nothing. Our ministers, however, seemed quite to disregard, or rather to be quite ignorant of, the vast importance of that province.

The Dutch East-India company had this year 22 ships from India, whose cargoes were so vast as well to merit a place in this commercial history, viz. spices, 6,311,027 lbs ; sugar, 2,406,428 lbs ; saltpetre, 1,807,210 lbs ; coffee, 3,997,759 lbs ; dying and other drugs, 91,949 chests, 1,549,463 lbs ; tea, 515,970 chests, and 369,577 lbs ; silk, raw, 62,015 lbs ; silk stuffs, 21,205 pieces ; calicoes, 209,748 pieces ; indigo, 14,483 lbs ; tin, 354,000 lbs ; copper, 462,500 lbs ; candied ginger, 50,486 lbs ; China-ware, 525,223 pieces ; yarn, 92,441 lbs ; candied nutmegs, 8000 pff ; cubebs, 10,000 lbs ; curcuma of Java, 16,250 lbs ; mother-of-pearl, 800 lbs ; pearls, 10 lbs ; cowries, 255,357 lbs ; rough diamonds, 2 pff ; rings, 3 pff ; canes, 1500 pff ; and wool, 277 lbs. Such alterations may happen to this commerce in future times, as may possibly make this account hereafter seem incredible.

The trade to the coast of Guinea has seldom or never been carried on by exclusive companies, in any part of Europe, to national advantage ; private traders, under proper regulations, seeming most proper for preserving and extending that, as well as most other branches, of foreign commerce. Of this the states-general of the United Netherlands were so sensible, that they now laid their trade to a district of 60 leagues of the west coast of Africa open to all their subjects, which had till now been confined to their West-India company ; and was so to remain for twenty years to come, though under certain regulations mentioned in their placart.

The number of ships arriving, during the year 1734, at Amsterdam, was 1721, viz. from Archangel, 33 ; Peterburgh, 22 ; Riga, 70 ; Narva, 187 ; Wiburg, 20 ; Koningsberg, 36 ; Dantzick, 62 ; Stockholm, 26 ; Norway, 163 ; Greenland, 77 ; Davis's straits, 69 ; London, 51 ; Sunderland, 62 ; Bourdeaux, 88 ; Rouen, 33 ; Bayonne, 18 ; Nantes, 22 ; Rochelle, 12 ; Cadiz, 53 ; Bilboa, 20 ; Leghorn, 45 ; Lisbon, 32 ; Surinam, 29 ; and from East-India, 14. Here is a mistake of almost 400 ships too few, in specifying the particulars, in Boyer's Political state for the month of February 1735, probably to be supplied by their own coasters. Imperfect as this list is, from it, however, we may learn the immense commerce of Amsterdam with the northern crowns, and yet most of it is driven by means of the fish caught on the British coasts. Hereafter, such an account as this may be useful for comparing the annual increase or decrease of the general commerce of the



seven United Provinces, and principally that of the famous city of Amsterdam.

The number of ships that entered the port of Cadiz in all the year 1734, were, 596 English, 228 French, 147 Dutch, 13 Swedish, 14 Danish, 2 Portuguese, 2 Genoese, 1 Lubecker, and 1 Hamburger: in all, 1004 ships.

In the same year, 1734, there arrived at Cadiz the treasure and effects of the flota, viz. 11,011,749 dollars in specie for the commerce, and 1,464,582 for the king: in all, 12,476,331, or about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  millions sterling; besides almost five millions of dollars by the *Asfogues* ships, and besides the vast quantities of cochineal, indigo, sugar, chocolate, tobacco, snuff, hides, cacao, copper, drugs, and dying stuffs. The preceding observation, relating to the trade of Amsterdam in this same year, may hereafter be of equal use in the case of the annual shipping and trade of Cadiz and Spanish America.

1735.—The lands in the north riding of the county of York being generally freehold, whereby they could be so secretly transferred from one person to another, or encumbered, that such persons as were ill-disposed had it in their power to commit frauds, and frequently did so; by means whereof, several persons, who, through many years industry, had been enabled to purchase lands, or to lend money thereon, had been undone, by prior and secret conveyances and fraudulent encumbrances; it was therefor enacted, that a memorial of all deeds and conveyances should be exhibited by Michaelmas 1736, and also of all wills, devices, judgments, statutes, and recognizances (other than such entered into in the name of his majesty and his successors) whereby any honours, lands, &c. might be any way affected in law and equity, should be registered, or a memorial thereof, in such manner as was by law directed in the year 1704 for the west riding, in 1708 for the east riding, of this county, and in 1709 for the county of Middlesex, otherwise they should be adjudged fraudulent, [8 *Geo. II.*, c. 6]. How much is it to be wished, that every part of England and Wales were put upon the like regulation; and how easily might it be effected; would gentlemen heartily set about it.

The French had of late so greatly improved their East-India commerce, that they sent out fourteen ships in the preceding year, whereof twelve arrived in August 1734; and they were enabled to put up to sale at their Port L'Orient, the following East-India merchandize, viz. coffee, tea, drugs, &c. 5,334,712 lbs; calicoes, stuffs, &c. 387,820 pieces; 4284 packets of canes; 500 ditto of malack; 71 handkerchiefs of Cosimbazar for samples; 39 painted handkerchiefs for samples; 5000 fans; 2124 sheets of paper painted; 28,000 counters and fishes, (for card-playing) mother-of-pearl; 1992 cabarets of varnish; 55 chests of China-ware, and 189 rolls ditto.

In this catalogue it may be seen, that the company were but new and raw in some part of their East-India commerce, notwithstanding the very large quantity of goods now imported.

We should here also remark, that, in the preceding year (1734) a very rich fleet arrived at Lisbon from Bahia in Brazil, and another from Rio de Janeiro, which brought home, for the king and the merchants, in treasure,  $15\frac{1}{2}$  millions of cruzados in gold, 220 arobas of gold dust and ingots, 437 arobas of bars of gold, 48 arobas of wrought gold, 8871 marks of silver, 42,803 pieces of eight, 3 millions 36 octaves and 5 quintals of diamonds; besides 11,000 rolls of tobacco, 113,000 hides, 1000 chests of sugar, and many other particulars.

Great quantities of diamonds having lately been brought over from the new diamond mines in Brazil, the king of Portugal, in order to prevent their sinking in value by reason of the quantity imported, reserved to himself all diamonds found in those mines of above twenty carats, on certain conditions.

By the bill of births and mortality of the city of Vienna, for the preceding year 1734, there were christened 5620, and buried 5380: which last number multiplied by 30 gives 161,400 souls in that city; and if by 33, then it will give 177,540 souls therein.

In this year, 1735, there was published an abstract of a new treaty of navigation and commerce between Great Britain and Russia, viz.

' I) Where navigation and commerce are permitted to any other nation, they shall be perfectly free in Europe to the estates of both the contracting parties, who may send all sorts of merchandize, the importation whereof is not prohibited, and may there likewise buy all sorts of merchandize, and export them out of the said estates.

' II) The subjects of Russia shall pay the same duties of exportation as the English, particularly on the effects exported from Russia. And the Russian merchants shall enjoy the same liberties and privileges of commerce in Great Britain as do the British merchants of the Russia company.

' III) In case British subjects shall make contracts with the chancery, or the college of commerce of Russia, for the delivery of merchandize, the said merchandize shall be received in the time specified, upon a declaration they shall make of their being ready.

' IV) The subjects of Great Britain may carry to Russia all sorts of merchandize, and may transport them thence by land into Persia, on paying a duty of 3 per cent, and may likewise bring back from Persia, through Russia, all sorts of merchandize, on again paying the same duty, without being obliged to open their bales: but, if the officers of the customs have reason to suspect that the just value thereof hath not been declared, they may stop the goods for their inspection, and, in the meantime, be paid according to the value declared.

‘ V) The subjects of both nations may load their ships with any kind of merchandize, paying the same custom as other nations do: and, in case of fraud in paying the duties, their goods shall be forfeited; but without any other punishment.

‘ VI) If any more warlike stores shall be found on board any British ship than shall be necessary for the use of the ship or passengers, it shall be lawful to seize the same; but neither ship nor effects shall be liable to be detained.

‘ VII) In case of shipwreck, all manner of assistance shall be given, without offering the least violence to the ship’s company or effects.

‘ VIII) The subjects on both sides may build houses, and dispose of them, without being liable to furnish quarters for soldiers. And passports shall be granted to those who shall think fit to retire, within two months after they notify their intention of going away.

‘ IX) The British merchants in Russia shall not be obliged to show their books to any one whatsoever, except it be to prove something in dispute. And, for the greater ease and encouragement of the British commerce, it is agreed, that for the future the English manufactures shall pay no greater duty on importation than is specified.

‘ This treaty is to be in force for fifteen years from the date hereof, the 2d of December 1734.’

The rents of the estates, forfeited by the attainder of the earl of Derwentwater, were appropriated by parliament for completing the erection of Greenwich hospital, and afterwards for the better maintenance of the seamen therein, who are worn out, or have become decrepit in the service of their country. All seamen in the merchants service, who happen to be maimed, not only (as in a former act) in fighting against pirates, but also in fighting against any enemy whatsoever of his majesty, are admitted into, and provided for, in the hospital, in like manner as any seamen maimed, wounded, or disabled in the king’s actual service. [8 *Geo. II*, c. 29]. This is truly a noble application of those estates, very much to the nation’s honour, and to the encouragement and comfort of our poor worn-out mariners\*.

We have the following curious piece of intelligence from the anonymous author of an ingenious pamphlet published in Ireland, entitled the *Querist*. He affirms for certain, ‘ that the single port of Cork exported this year 107,161 barrels of beef, 7379 barrels of pork, 13,461 casks and 85,727 firkins of butter. A prodigious quantity of provisions truly; while half the people of Ireland are starving for want of manufactures and tillage, pasturage employing so much fewer people than any other national employment.’ This is a pregnant instance of the great trade of the city of Cork, which has long been famous

\* This good law was further explained and amended by a statute, 11 *Geo. II*, c. 30. A.

for that particular branch of commerce. Since this author wrote, the linen and cambric manufactures of Ireland are very much increased in the province of Ulster, where the linen manufacture began, and are fast spreading over a great part of the other three provinces.

From Paris we received the following account of the christenings, marriages, and burials (usually stiled the bills of mortality), of that great city, for the years 1733 and 1734, viz.

|      |   | Christened. |   | Married. |   | Buried. |
|------|---|-------------|---|----------|---|---------|
| 1733 | - | 17,825      | - | 4132     | - | 17,406  |
| 1734 | - | 19,835      | - | 4130     | - | 15,122  |

32,528

1736.—In the year 1736, upon Mr. Egede's return from his mission in Greenland, he obtained a mission-college to be established at Copenhagen (according to Dr. Busching's New geography) for sending missionaries thither to convert the natives. And the trade from Denmark to Greenland, according to him, is at present carried on by a company at Copenhagen, who send thither three or four ships annually. Dr. Busching's Geography (published in English in 1762) likewise acquaints us of three or four christian missions then settled there, and of four Danish colonies now existing there; and also of a Moravian colony and congregation, now (1761) grown so considerable as to equal all the four Danish ones.

The pope having, as already related, made the port of Ancona on the Adriatic shore a free port, the republic of Venice, by way of precaution, and, after much deliberation, agreed to make their capital city of Venice likewise a free port, to the great joy of their merchants. By their new regulation, no cargo of merchandize was to pay any more than one ducat at entrance, and half a ducat upon exportation, whereby the merchants were thenceforth to be exempted from all that slavish attendance and dependance upon commissioners and custom-house officers, and the charges necessarily attending the same, which so much embarrassed the commerce of this state, and of the merchants of other nations trading thither.

The parliament passed an act [9 Geo. II, c. 29] for building a bridge over the river Thames, from New-palace-yard (or the Wool-staple) in the city of Westminster to the opposite shore in the county of Surrey. This noble structure, hitherto the most beautiful and uniform stone bridge in all Europe, its vast magnitude considered, by the parliament's bounty in granting several lotteries, and at different times several sums of money for it, was at length completed, much to the honour of the nation, the conveniency of inland commerce, and the accommodation of all ranks of people. The several statutes made concerning it likewise provided for the removal of many old and decayed houses, and

the erection of the three noble and spacious new streets named Bridge street, Parliament street, and George street, besides adorning the Palace-yards, &c. greatly to the embellishment of the city of Westminster, which, instead of its former dirty and narrow streets, now lifts up its head with grandeur and majesty on every side.

The long dispute between the king of Denmark and the free imperial city and republic of Hamburgh was at length adjusted this year, and, as usual, to the disadvantage of the weakest, on the terms following, viz. 1st, That the Hamburghers shall pay his Danish majesty, once for all, half a million of Danish crowns \*. 2dly, That they shall in a year's time abolish their bank current; whereupon the money of Denmark shall be on the same footing with that of Hamburgh. 3dly, That the merchants and artificers dwelling in the quarter or ward of Schawmberg at Hamburgh, and who are subjects of his Danish majesty, shall not be subject to the jurisdiction of the city of Hamburgh, and shall not pay the same poll-taxes as the other inhabitants of that city do; neither shall Danish military officers of rank, living at Hamburgh, be subject to its jurisdiction, nor the office of the royal posts established there. 4thly, That the commerce of Hamburgh with the Danish dominions shall be restored, and put upon its former footing: the king of Denmark, at the same time, causing all the ships and effects of the Hamburghers, which he had seized, to be released. 5thly, Justice shall be done to the creditors of bankrupts of Hamburgh taking refuge at Altena, or other parts of Denmark. 6thly, The rights of the Hamburghers, concerning vessels that may chance to be wrecked on the Danish coasts, shall receive no prejudice.

Mr. Drake, in his History and antiquities of York (published in 1736), has supplied us with the following notices of that city.

1st, There are 42 gentlemen's coaches, 22 hackney coaches, and the like number of hackney chairs, in full employment in the city.

2dly, A medium of seven years births and burials, from 1728 to 1735, is 398 births and 495 burials per annum. And, as York is deemed a healthful place, we shall suppose that only 1 in 33 of its inhabitants die annually; so that the number of souls in the city and suburbs of York may be estimated at 16,335.

3dly, York, within its gates, is two miles and almost three quarters in circuit, as surveyed in the year 1664. And, in his notes, he adds, that the city of London is very little bigger within its walls, being but barely three miles in circumference; yet the later probably contains six times as many inhabitants as York does, owing to the many more void spaces in York than in London.

It was at this time computed that the Portuguese in Brazil produced

\* How often have such *once for alls* been repeated? A.

67,600 chefts of fugar, each of 12 hundred-weight; in all, 811,200 hundred-weight of that commodity. The Portuguefe ftill fupply Spain, fundry parts of the Mediterranean coaft, Holland, and Hamburgh, with a confiderable quantity of fugar, as they formerly did England and France, till they laid 10 per cent additional impoft on their fugars, and till the two later nations had well cultivated their own fugar colonies.

The Dutch are faid to produce ufually between 30,000 and 40,000 hogfheads of fugar annually at the colony of Surinam; and they are of late improving their plantations of Barbecies and Ifequebe, adjoining to Surinam on the continent of South-America. The Dutch alfo frequently import fugars from Eaft-India, and fome alfo from their own ifles of Eufatia and Curaçoa.

By an act of parliament [9 *Geo. II*, c. 34] for enabling his majefty to borrow any fum of money not exceeding L600,000, to be charged on the finking fund, &c. one million was paid off on the new joint flock of South-fea annuities, from christmas 1736; which amounted to L9: 2/ per cent, written off from each proprietor's account, exclusive of fractions.

In the fame feflion an act paffed to refrain the difpofition of lands, whereby the fame become unalienable. The preamble to this new mortmain law fets forth, that ' whereas gifts, or alienations of lands, ' tenements, or hereditaments, in mortmain, are prohibited or reftained: ' by magna charta, and by divers other wholefome laws, as prejudicial ' to, and againft the common utility; neverthelefs, this public mifchief ' has of late greatly increafed, by many large and improvident aliena- ' tions or difpofitions made by languifhing or dying perfons, or by other ' perfons, to ufes called charitable, to take place after their deaths, to ' the difherifon of their lawful heirs: for remedy whereof, be it enact- ' ed, that no manors, lands, tenements, rents, advowfons, or other he- ' reditaments, corporeal or incorporeal whatfoever, nor any fum or ' fums of money, goods, chattels, ftocks in the public funds, fecurities ' for money, or any other perfonal eftate whatfoever, to be laid out or ' difpofed of in the purchafe of any lands, tenements, or hereditaments, ' fhall be given, granted, aliened, limited, releafed, transferred, affign- ' ed, or appointed, or any way conveyed, or fettled to, or upon, any per- ' fon or perfons, bodies politic or corporate, or otherwife, for any eftate ' or intereft whatfoever, or any ways charged or encumbered by any ' perfon or perfons whatfoever, in truft, or for the benefit of, any cha- ' ritable ufes whatfoever; unlefs fuch gift, conveyance, appointment, or ' fettlement, of any fuch lands, tenements, perfonal eftate, money, &c. ' (other than ftocks in the public funds), be made by deed, indented, ' fealed, and delivered, in the prefence of two or more creditable wit- ' nefles, twelve calendar months at leaft before the death of fuch donor ' or granter (including the days of the execution and death), and be



\* inrolled in his majesty's high court of chancery, within six calendar  
 \* months next after the execution thereof, and unless such stocks be  
 \* transferred in the public books usually kept for the transfer of stocks,  
 \* six kalendar months at least before the death of such donor or granter;  
 \* and unless the same be made to take effect in possession for the charit-  
 \* able use intended immediately from the making thereof, and be with-  
 \* out any power of revocation, reservation, trust, condition, limitation,  
 \* clause, or agreement, whatsoever, for the benefit of the donor or  
 \* granter, or of any claiming under him. -Provided, that the said li-  
 \* mitations shall extend to purchases or transfers made hereafter for va-  
 \* luable considerations. And all such gifts, grants, conveyances, &c.  
 \* made after midsummer 1736, otherwise than herein directed, shall be  
 \* absolutely void. Provided, that nothing in this act shall be construed  
 \* to extend to make void dispositions of lands, tenements, or heredita-  
 \* ments, or of personal estate, to be laid out in the purchase of such  
 \* lands, &c. which shall be made in any other form than by this act di-  
 \* rected, to, or in trust for, either of the two English universities, and  
 \* their respective colleges or houses of learning, or for the colleges of  
 \* Eton, Winchester, or Westminster, for the better support and main-  
 \* tenance of the scholars only upon the foundation of the last-named  
 \* three colleges. Provided, nevertheless, that no such college, or house  
 \* of learning, which doth, or shall, hold so many advowsons of eccle-  
 \* siastical benefits as are, or shall be, equal in number to half the num-  
 \* ber of their fellows (or where there are no fellows, to half the num-  
 \* ber of their students upon the foundation) shall, from midsummer  
 \* 1736, be capable of purchasing, taking, or otherwise holding, any  
 \* other advowsons, by any means whatever; such advowsons as are an-  
 \* nexed to the headships of colleges not being computed in the number  
 \* hereby limited. This act shall not extend to Scotland.' [9 Geo. II,  
 c. 36.]

Several societies petitioned to be excepted out of this bill, particu-  
 larly the corporation for the sons of the clergy, that for Queen Anne's  
 bounty, the grey-coat hospital in Westminster, and the trustees for the  
 charity-schools of London, Westminster, and Southwark. But they  
 were rejected.

Notwithstanding the very ill success of the late whale fishery of the  
 South-sea company for eight years together, yet this year one ship, be-  
 longing to private adventurers, brought home to London no fewer than  
 seven whales; and 130 Dutch ships were said to have caught this same  
 year 600 whales. So precarious is whale-fishing in the frozen and ter-  
 rible seas of Spitzbergen, &c.

Advices were received this year from Carolina, that the French of  
 Mississippi were making war, jointly with their own Indians, on a nation  
 of Indians, called Chickasaws, dependent on Carolina. Their plan was

now seen to be to hem in all our settlements on the east coasts of North-America by forts, all along the river Mississippi, as far up as Canada, and thereby to exclude the English from any commerce with the numerous nations of Indians west of our colonies; of which plan Dr. D'Avenant gave public warning so early as the year 1698: yet even now the scales did not fall from our eyes. It seems the French had got together 2500 white men on Mobile river, on which they built a fort with an intent to invade Carolina; but the advice of peace between the French and us obliged them to dissemble that design, and our Chickasaws proved too hard in the end for their Indian allies.

For two years past the general courts of the South-sea company had fruitless debates concerning an equivalent proposed by Geraldino, the Spanish agent with that company, in lieu of their annual ship, which seemed calculated to amuse the company, and to delay the Spanish cedula, or permission, for sending out their annual ship, without any serious intention to give the company due satisfaction. On the 11th of August 1736 the general court took that matter again into consideration, after much had been printed in newspapers, by way of letters, for and against the equivalent, and also for the company's farming their introduction of negroes into particular parts of the Spanish West-Indies, viz. to Vera Cruz, Campeachy, Guatemala, &c. and the several demands made by Geraldino before a cedula could be granted: but it being observed in this general court, that the court of directors were better acquainted with the secret springs of those points, it was finally resolved, 'that the several matters relating to dispatching an annual ship, to the payment demanded by the king of Spain of a quarter of the profits made by the ship Royal-Caroline, and the value of the dollars payable for the negro duties, be referred to the court of directors, to do therein as they should think most for the interest of the company.'

This year an account was laid before the house of commons of the corn exported from England between christmas 1734 and christmas 1735, with the bounty paid thereon, viz.

57,520 quarters of barley, bounty £7190; 219,781 quarters of malt, bounty £26,434; 1920 quarters of oat-meal, bounty £240; 1329 quarters of rye, bounty £232; 153,343 quarters of wheat, bounty £38,335; total quarters, 433,893; total bounties, £72,433.

A fleet of 27 sail arrived this year at Lisbon from Pernambuco in Brazil, the cargo whereof was,

In money, 1,300,000 cruzados for the merchants; 200,000 cruzados for the king.

4 octaves of diamonds.

6294 chests of sugar, and 700 small chests ditto.

8600 rolls of tobacco.

84,000 half hides, and 13,000 whole hides, in the hair.

11,000 hundred-weight of Brazil wood.

450 hundred-weight of violetta wood.

1737.—The French at this time were eagerly pushing into an universal commerce, as the surer, though slower, way of coming at their old darling scheme of universal dominion, viz.

In Africa they monopolized the gum trade at the river Senegal; they had also encroached on the English settlement at the river Gambia, and had largely increased their slave-trade on that coast for the encouragement of their West-India sugar islands: where

They had at this time gained so much ground on ours as to be the great exporters of sugar, and also of indigo, cotton, and ginger, to many parts of Europe. They had also gained a considerable settlement on the coast of Guiana, near Surinam in South-America, encroaching both on the Dutch and Spaniards there. On the continent of North-America, they now assiduously pursued old Louis's plan of forming a chain of forts and settlements from the mouth of the great river Mississippi up to their province of Canada, thereby to cut off our continental settlements from any commerce with the vast Indian countries westward, and in time to get possession of them all. For that end they had strongly fortified the island of Cape-Breton, at the entrance of the great river St. Laurence, serving as well to command that entrance as to protect a very great cod fishery, which they have of late so vastly increased in the neighbouring seas.

From Quebec, their capital of Canada, they had opened and fortified, a communication with the lakes lying behind, and properly as much belonging to our province of New-York as any other part of that province can be said to be; and had also taken possession of the fertile lands round those lakes, much of which they had already cleared, and in part cultivated, where they had plentiful crops of wheat; and had also found lead mines, which farther enabled them to improve their trade with the neighbouring Indians; and (by already endeavouring to remove such Indian nations from the neighbourhood of the river Mississippi as might endanger its navigation) designing to carry their wheat, &c. down that vast stream to New-Orleans, their Mississippi capital, from thence to supply their sugar colonies therewith, possibly cheaper than our northern plantations can at present do. They had also planted tobacco in that country, and had begun to saw timber for lumber, with a like view to a trade from thence with their sugar islands. Westward they were said to have already extended their communication as far as the Spanish province of New-Mexico, casting, no doubt, a longing eye on the rich silver mines there. Eastward from the Mississippi, they had by this time settled so far up the river Albanus as to have forts on it within twenty days march of Charlestown, our capital of South-Carolina. Of all which vast improvements and encroachments on the territories of other nations,

and more especially of our own, authentic accounts were laid before our government and our board of trade; yet no effectual regard was shewn thereto: neither did the court of Spain seem more to regard their encroachments in the Mississippi country, and on their province of Florida, nor even their more dangerous one towards New-Mexico. In the East-India commerce also France had by this time greatly increased, even beyond belief, without being duely regarded by such who might in the beginning have ruined it and most of the above encroachments, had vigorous measures been in due time taken.

All these particulars we have here judged fit to be laid together before our readers at one summary view, in order the better to illustrate and explain what may hereafter fall in our way in respect to France's all-grasping designs for universal commerce as well as dominion. In treating of these, and sundry other points, it will be impossible to avoid obscurity, without a brief repetition of some things previously handled in other parts of our work: and though, by our late amazing success against the French colonies in America, matters are since greatly changed, yet the steps taken by that nation are well worth tracing as mementos for futurity.

There was at this time much said in pamphlets and newspapers in favour of the importation of iron and hemp from the British American colonies, as being two articles of the first importance for our navy and mercantile shipping, as well as for numberless other services; and petitions were presented to parliament for this end by the merchants.

1<sup>st</sup>, It was computed that England imported annually about 20,000 tons of foreign iron, whereof 15,000 tons were from Sweden, which cost about £150,000, mostly paid by us in money, as are most of the other 5000 tons brought from Russia; and that our exports of wrought iron are from 3000 to 3500 tons per annum.

2<sup>dly</sup>, That the iron of the British colonies is as good as any foreign iron whatever, and, with proper encouragement, might be imported in quantities sufficient to supply all the iron we get from those two nations, on whom we are at present dependent for that commodity, without their taking sufficient of our product and manufactures in return; whereas our own colonies would be entirely paid by our manufactures, the demand for which would thereby be much increased, and thereby about £180,000 per annum would be clearly saved to the nation in the balance of our trade. It was, moreover, computed that England makes annually at home about 18,000 tons of bar-iron, the quantity of which, it was said, we could not increase, by reason of our woods being so far exhausted as to have greatly enhanced the price of cord-wood used in the refining of iron-stone: and were we to import more pig-iron from America, and make less of it at home, we should be able, with the same

quantity of wood we now consume, to make much more bar-iron at home.

3dly, That nothing is more likely to prevent our American colonies from falling into such manufactures as must interfere with our own manufactures of iron, &c. than giving them encouragements to raise such rough materials as pig, fow, and bar, iron, hemp, &c. as it is well known of what great advantage to this kingdom the bounties on the importation of pitch and tar from thence have been since the year 1703.

4thly, That, for this end, a duty should be laid in our colonies on all iron imported there from Europe; and that, had the like been done in regard to prohibiting the importation of hemp from Europe into our colonies, the bounty now subsisting on American hemp would have, by this time, proved more effectual for supplying us from thence with all the hemp we want.

On the other hand, the great and natural opposers to the merchants' petitions were the proprietors of the English iron works, and those of the woodlands of England; but where particular interest alone is so strongly concerned against so visible a national benefit, that opposition seemed then not to be much regarded by impartial men, at least without doors. In fine, the promoters of this scheme, for encouraging the importation of iron from our American colonies, proposed, that an additional duty should be laid on all foreign bar-iron imported, excepting only such as shall be imported from our American colonies; and to repeal the present foreign duty on all bar-iron which may be hereafter imported from our plantations: yet so many jarring interests prevented the legislature from doing any thing at this time therein.

In November 1737 the Jamaica merchants petitioned the king for protection against the great and violent interruptions and seizures committed by Spanish ships in the American seas; under the plausible pretences of guarding their own coasts; by not only stopping and searching, but also, for many years past, forcibly and arbitrarily seizing, their ships on the high-seas, inhumanly treating the British commanders and sailors, and condemning our ships and cargoes as prizes; in manifest violation of solemn treaties between Great Britain and Spain, whereby the trade to his majesty's plantations in America is rendered extremely precarious; humbly praying, therefore, speedy and ample satisfaction for those losses; and that no British vessel be detained or searched on the high seas by any nation, under any pretence whatsoever; and that the trade to America may be rendered safe for the future. The king promised them redress, upon their making good their allegations to the privy council, which they afterward plainly did. And here we must observe, that whereas, by the treaty of 1670 with Spain our ships are not to resort, nor trade to, the coasts of New Spain and its adjoining Spanish provinces, unless driven thither by stress of weather, their sail-



ing near to those shores renders them liable to be suspected of carrying on a contraband trade with those American provinces of Spain, the trade to which is absolutely and most strictly confined to Spaniards solely. And there is scarcely any doubt that our sloops, &c. from Jamaica, and some other British colonies, sometimes run the hazard for the sake of gain, and therefor ought to submit to the consequences. So, on the other hand, it is notorious, that the Spanish guarda-costas (or guard ships) frequently exceeded their commissions, by searching, plundering, and often seizing, British ships sailing on the American seas, even though not so near their shores as to give any suspicion of clandestine trade, and though not loaded with the produce of the Spanish-American provinces; but only perhaps having a few Spanish pieces of eight, or a small parcel of logwood, or other Spanish-American merchandize, found in such ships, the first being the only coin in our island of Jamaica, and the two last the produce of that island. In short, these mutual complaints in a few years brought on the war between Great Britain and Spain; and although the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, in the year 1748, seemed to terminate that affair, yet it was but barely to seem to do it; and a new and more distinct or explicit treaty seems still to be wanting, if intended by either party, for that point, and also for our logwood trade in the bay of Campeachy. To these complaints of our merchants an answer was indeed given in June 1738 by the court of Spain, wherein most of the grievances and violences were promised to be redressed; and the rest were referred to the inquiry of the Spanish governors in America, who were very incompetent judges thereof, as being parties to many of those violences, and many of them privately partners in the guarda-costas. And thus it remained, till repeated injuries obliged his Britannic majesty to declare war against Spain, after having in vain tried by an amicable convention, in the year 1739, to preserve peace.

There were christened in London in the year 1737, 16,760 souls; buried 27,823. Increased in the burials this year 242.

1738.—One million of the capital stock of the bank of England was paid off, being a moiety, and farther part, of the two millions capital, created by an act of the third year of King George I. So that the capital stock of the bank of England was hereby reduced to £3,875,027 : 17 : 10, £500,000, other part of the said two millions having been paid off by an act of the first year of King George II, for granting an aid to his majesty, by sale of annuities to the bank, &c.

Sir William Keith, (in his *History of Virginia*, p. 174, published in 1738) gives the following account of the revenue of that colony, as it then stood, and is established by acts of their assemblies, viz.

‘ The annual receipt of quit-rents, at 2/ sterling per 100 acres, being the revenue of the crown, paid into the receipt of the king’s pri-



|   |       |
|---|-------|
| ‘ vate exchequer, is an increafing fund, amounting at prefent to  |       |
| ‘ about   | L3500 |
| ‘ Two fhillings fterling per hogfhead on tobacco exported (at     |       |
| ‘ a medium of 32,000 hogfheads) per annum,                        | 3200  |
| ‘ Out of which (alfo increafing) tax, is paid the governor’s fa-  |       |
| ‘ lary of L2000 per annum.  |       |
| ‘ One fhilling fterling per ton on 10,000 tons of fhipping        |       |
| ‘ yearly,   | 500   |
| ‘ The eftablifhed fees for marriage licences, probates of wills,  |       |
| ‘ and entering and clearing fhips (together with other legal per- |       |
| ‘ quifites belonging to the governor refiding there) is, per an-  |       |
| ‘ num,  | 600   |
|   | <hr/> |
|   | L7800 |

It is more than probable that, fince that time, all thefe articles are confiderably increafed.

There were imported into the port of London, on the 23d of October 1738, 151,219 yards of linen, manufactured in Scotland, and alfo 3000 fpindles of linen yarn. Such large entries of the linen manufacture, both from Scotland and Ireland, of late, every year increafing, merit the higheft encouragement, as they do not only ufefully employ our own people, and better enable them to pay taxes, excife, &c. and to confume more of the product of the country, but which is of very great importance in the general balance of our commerce, as their linen manufactures fhall gradually increafe, the importation of foreign linen muft neceffarily decreafe in a fimilar proportion.

By the London bill of mortality for the year 1738, there were chriftened 16,060; buried 25,825. Decreafed in the burials this year 1998.

It is not fo eafy as fome have pretended to account for the large mortality bills of London, in this, and fome preceding years, compared with much later years, while no extraordinary ficknefs happened, and while, at the fame time, great additions ~~were~~ constantly making to the buildings in its fuburbs. The beft reafons ufually given for the late decreafe of its mortality bills, are, 1<sup>ft</sup>, the many hospitals fince erected for fick perfons, whereby, and by the fmall-pox hospitals, many lives are, probably, preferved, which, without them, would have been loft; 2<sup>dly</sup>, many private dwelling-houfes, in many parts within the city of London, are, from the very vifible increafe of our commerce, pulled down and turned into warehoufes for merchandize, whereby the number of houfeholders is fenfibly decreafed within the lord mayor’s jurifdiction; but this, we doubt, will fcarcely be admitted as any good reafon for the general decreafe of the burials, unlefs it appeared that thofe houfeholders had removed from within the limits of the general bills of

mortality; 3dly, the late wars in Germany and America have undoubtedly carried away some thousands of our lower people, vagrants, &c.; lastly, it is much to be suspected, as elsewhere noted, that the company of parish-clerks of London, either have not sufficient powers by law, or else do not exert those powers, for enabling them to be more exact in their weekly bills.

1739.—We have already briefly related the barbarous and illegal captures of our British merchant ships on the high seas of America by the Spanish guarda-costas, or vessels pretending to be such. Those grievances were loudly complained of by our merchants, and the house of commons addressed the king for obtaining due satisfaction of the court of Spain. Moreover, the British house of peers came to the following resolution, viz. that the Spaniards searching our ships on the open seas, under pretence of their carrying contraband or prohibited goods, is a violation of the treaties subsisting between the two crowns. Hereupon, the strongest remonstrances being made to the Spanish court, the king acquainted his parliament, that he had concluded a preliminary convention with Spain, stipulating, in substance,

‘ 1st, That immediately after the signing thereof, two plenipotentiaries on each side should meet at Madrid, finally to regulate the respective pretensions of the two crowns.

‘ 2dly, Until the limits of Florida and Carolina can be adjusted, things shall remain there in their present situation.

‘ 3dly, His catholic majesty shall cause to be paid to his Britannic majesty £95,000 sterling, as a balance admitted to be due to the crown and subjects of Great Britain, after deduction made of the demands of the crown and subjects of Spain, to the end that the above-mentioned sum, together with the amount of what has been acknowledged on the part of Great Britain to be due to Spain on her demands, may be employed by his Britannic majesty for the satisfaction and payment of the demands of his subjects upon the crown of Spain. But this reciprocal discharge shall not relate nor extend to the differences subsisting between the crown of Spain and the South-sea company, nor to any particular or private contracts between either of the two crowns, or their ministers, with the subjects of the other, or between the subjects of the one crown with those of the other.

‘ 4thly, If it shall happen that, in consequence of orders dispatched by the court of Spain, any part of the value of certain ships taken from the English, and included in the foregoing £95,000, be already paid, the same shall be deducted thereout.

‘ 1st separate article. The said £95,000 shall be paid by his catholic majesty at London, within four months after the ratification of this convention.

‘ 2d separate article. The 3d article shall not extend to ships taken

‘ since the 10th of December 1737 ; in which cases justice shall be done according to the treaties, as if this convention had not been made. It being however understood, that this relates only to the indemnification and satisfaction to be made for the effects seized, or prizes taken ; but that the decision of the cases which may happen, in order to remove all pretext for dispute, is to be referred to the plenipotentiaries to be determined according to the treaties.’

This is the substance of a convention, which made so much noise, and gave so much disgust in England. What gave the greatest disgust of all, was the king of Spain’s following declaration and protest, which he insisted on as a preliminary condition of his ratifying the above convention, viz. that he reserves to himself, in its full force, the right of being able to suspend the *asiento* for negroes, and of dispatching the necessary orders for the execution thereof, in case the South-sea company do not subject themselves to pay, within a short term, the sum of £68,000 sterling, which they acknowledged to be due on the duty for negroes, according to the regulation of 5*d* per dollar, and on the profits of the ship *Royal Caroline* ; and farther declares, that under the validity and force of this protest, the signing of the said convention may be proceeded on, and in no other manner.

The injustice of this previous demand on the company was so apparent, that the general court on the 1st of March resolved not to pay the same, without the king of Spain’s coming to a just account with them for all the seizures and captures of their ships and merchandize, which he had by former agreements engaged to refund to them, viz.

I) On our rupture with Spain in the year 1718 the king of Spain seized on all the company’s effects in every part of his dominions, amounting to about one million of dollars, or nearly, in sterling money, to £225,000 ; whilst the company’s factories were kept up at La Vera Cruz, Panama, Porto-Bello, Carthagena, and Buenos-Ayres ; and two agents at Madrid ; all which was a very great expense. This sum the king of Spain engaged to make good to the company by the treaty of the year 1721.

II) The king of Spain having in 1727 besieged Gibraltar, he again seized on every thing belonging to the South-sea company, amounting to about half a million of dollars, or £122,000.

Yet in the treaty of that same year he promised not only to restore this last seizure, but also the preceding one of the year 1718 ; though all that was ever received was but a mere trifle, compared to their whole loss. Now, those confiscations were the more unjust, as being expressly contrary to the *asiento* contract ; wherein it is stipulated, that whatever differences may arise between the two crowns, the company shall be always allowed eighteen months for the removal of their effects. The company has also farther demands on the king of Spain : for instance,

1st, their just claim on him, for one fourth part of all their losses sustained in trade; as by the assiento contract he was to be a quarter-part sharer in their profits.

2dly, The king of Spain ought to make good the loss the South-sea company has sustained by his frequent refusal of their annual ship, as well as by the number of such annual ships short of what they should have been allowed by the assiento contract.

3dly, The company has yet farther demands to make, whenever a treaty shall be set on foot: but, in the meantime, these considerations are more than sufficient to justify their proceedings, and to demonstrate that the court of Spain was never disposed in earnest to do justice to our injured people. For the king of Spain did not only suffer the four months to elapse, within which time he was to pay the £95,000, on the pretext of the South-sea company's failure of paying his demand of £68,000; but, instead of fulfilling the convention, he seized the ships and goods of his majesty's subjects wherever they could be found, in his dominions or elsewhere; and also ordered all the British subjects in his dominions to depart in a shorter time than allowed by treaties. Whereupon Geraldino, his envoy extraordinary, and Terry, his agent at London for the assiento contract, were obliged to leave the kingdom. And his Britannic majesty on the 23d of October 1739 declared war against Spain, for maintaining the honour of his crown and kingdom, and for obtaining redress to his much injured merchants and traders, who from all parts of the kingdom made earnest petitions for relief. It was indeed high time for our government to take this step, (though with more than seeming reluctance) for the violences and insolence of the Spaniards in America were become absolutely intolerable, principally owing to our own shamefully pusillanimous temporizing at any rate, rather than resolutely doing ourselves justice by force of arms; they more than ever persisting in searching and seizing British ships, and putting their commanders into irons and prisons, their detaining the South-sea company's ships, and locking up of that company's warehouses at Porto-Bello, Carthagena, Havanna, &c.

It was thought, that taking off the duties upon woollen or bay yarn, imported from Ireland, might be a ' means to prevent the exportation of ' wool, and of woollen manufactures, from Ireland to foreign parts, and ' also be of use to the manufacturers of Great Britain; ' and parliament therefor enacted, that ' from the 1st of May 1740, the same should be no ' longer payable; excepting only the duties upon worsted-yarn of two or ' more threads, twisted or thrown, or on cruel, imported from Ireland. ' And whereas, notwithstanding the several laws for preventing the ex- ' portation of wool unmanufactured from Britain and Ireland to foreign ' parts, such exportation was notoriously continued; for farther preven- ' tion thereof, it was enacted, that all wool, woollen or bay yarn, woofsels,

' shortlings, mortlings, woolflocks, worsted-yarn, cloth, serge, bays, ' kerfies, says, frises, druggets, cloth-ferges, shalloons, stuffs, and other ' draperies, or stuffs mixed with wool or woolflocks; which shall from ' time to time be exported from Ireland into the ports of this kingdom ' hereafter mentioned, shall be shipped off and entered at the ports of ' Dublin, Waterford, Youghal, Kingfale, Cork, Drogheda, New-Rofs, ' Newry, Wexford, Wicklow, Sligo, Limerick, Galway, and Dundalk, ' and from no other part of Ireland whatever. Nor to any other ports ' of Britain but to Biddiford, Barnstaple, Minehead, Bridgewater, Bris- ' tol, Milford-haven, Chester, and Liverpool; and in vessels only of the ' built of Great Britain or Ireland, and duely registered upon oath.' With sundry other clauses for preventing frauds, needfess here to be particularized. [12 Geo. II, c. 21.]

Upon this subject, the author of Considerations now laid before the British parliament, relating to the running of wool, thinks it highly probable, ' that more than 1,500,000 people are employed in our British ' woollen manufacture; and if these earn, one with another, sixpence per ' day for 313 working days in the year, it will amount to L11,737,500.' Which is rightly computed, and demonstrates the immense benefit of this manufacture.

The French having gradually gained the ascendant over us in supplying the European market with sugars, by being permitted to carry them directly from their own sugar islands to foreign parts, without being first landed in France, liberty was therefor granted to carry sugars of the growth, produce, or manufacture, of any British sugar colonies in America, from the said colonies directly to foreign parts southward of Cape Finisterre, in ships built in Great Britain, and navigated according to law; the major part of the proprietors of which ships shall, upon oath, be residing in Great Britain, and the residue in the British sugar islands, and not elsewhere; and cleared out from Great Britain, or the British sugar islands, on certain conditions therein specified. [12 Geo. II, c. 30.] The French had the start of us in this prudent regulation, by at least twelve years, as appears by their edicts of the years 1726 and 1727.

In consequence of a statute for laying a duty on the tonnage of all ships belonging or trading to or from the port of Liverpool, for making a dock, piers, &c. for that port, we have seen a printed list of all the ships belonging to that famous maritime port and town, taken on the first of May 1739: whereby it appeared, that their number from 30 tons and upwards, was 211 ships and vessels, amongst which that year there were 1. of 400 tons; 1 of 350; 1 of 300; 1 of 250; 2 of 240; 2 of 200; 2 of 190; 4 of 180; 7 of 160; 15 of 150; 10 of 140; 5 of 130; 13 of 120; 6 of 110; and 16 of 100 tons each: the rest from

90 tons downward. And though the printing of the number of their ships be since laid aside, we are well assured that the number of shipping of that port is since very considerably increased.

During the year 1738, there arrived at the port of Amsterdam 1813 ships of all sorts. Boyer's Political state for the month of January 1739, (N. S.) from whom that number of ships is taken, remarks, 'that the Amsterdammers conjecture, that London has double their number of ships frequenting their port.'

In the same year Rotterdam had about 500 ships entered inwards.

At London in this year 1739 there were christened 16,181: buried 25,432; decreased in the burials in this year 393.

There were exported in the year 1739 from South-Carolina, 71,484 barrels of rice; 8095 barrels of pitch; 33 ditto of turpentine; 2734 ditto of tar; 559 hogheads of deer-skins, 1196 loose skins unpacked; Indian corn and peas 20,165 bushels; pine and cypress timber and planks 209,190 feet; cedar boards 3200 feet; shingles 42,600 pieces; cask-staves 56,821; tanned leather 1535 hides; rosin 45 barrels; saffrafas  $4\frac{1}{2}$  tons; beef and pork 539 barrels; potatoes 790 bushels. Cleared outward 238 ships and vessels.

1740.—In the year 1740 there was erected in Sweden a board for the encouragement of trade and manufactures, which has proved very advantageous to that nation.

For the better supply of seamen to serve in British ships of war, and also onboard merchant ships and privateers, and for the better carrying on the present war against Spain, or any future war, an act was passed, 'whereby, during the present war, merchant ships may be navigated by any number of foreign seamen, not exceeding three fourths of the ship's company. And for the better encouragement of foreign seamen to serve onboard British ships, either of war, merchant ships, or privateers, during this war, such foreign seamen so serving for two years, shall afterward be deemed in all respects natural-born subjects; provided, such foreigner shall not thereby be enabled to be of the privy-council, or to be a member of either house of parliament, or to take any office of trust, civil or military, or to have any grant of lands, &c. from the crown to himself, or to any other person in trust for him: and the king, his heirs, and successors, are hereby empowered in any future war, by proclamation, during such war, and no longer, to permit the like number of foreign seamen to serve in merchant ships or privateers, as well as in ships of war.' [13 *Geo. II, c. 3.*] This prudent law was followed by another very wise one, in sundry respects resembling it, for naturalizing such foreign protestants, and others therein mentioned, as are settled, or shall settle, in any of his majesty's colonies in America, the preamble whereof sets forth, that whereas the increase



of people is a means of advancing the wealth and strength of any nation or country: and whereas many foreigners and strangers, from the lenity of our government, the purity of our religion, the benefit of our laws, the advantages of our trade, and the security of our property, might be induced to come and settle in some of his majesty's colonies in America, if they were made partakers of the advantages and privileges which the natural-born subjects of this realm enjoy. It was now therefor enacted, that from the first day of June 1740, all persons born out of the liegiance of his majesty, who shall have resided, or shall hereafter reside, for the space of seven years or more, in any of his colonies in America, and shall not have been absent from thence above two months at any one time, and shall take the usual oaths of fidelity; or if quakers, shall subscribe the declaration of fidelity, (or if Jews, with the omission of some christian expressions) and shall also subscribe the profession of their christian belief, (Jews excepted) as directed by a statute of the 1st of William and Mary, (intituled, an act for exempting their majesties protestant subjects from the penalties of certain laws) before any judge of the colony they shall reside in, and shall have received the sacrament of the Lord's supper, in some protestant or reformed congregation in Great Britain, or in the said colonies, (quakers and Jews excepted) within three months of his or her so qualifying, and producing a certificate thereof, signed by the minister of the said congregation, attested by two witnesses: a certificate of all which, under the respective colony's seal, shall be a sufficient proof of his or her being thereby become a natural-born subject of Great Britain, to all intents and purposes whatsoever. And the secretary of each colony shall annually transmit to the board of trade and plantations, lists of the said persons so naturalized, to be registered in their office: proviso, that such persons shall not thereby be enabled to be a privy-counsellor, &c. as in other naturalization statutes. [13 *Geo. II, c. 7.*] The more immediate object of this statute was in favour of some thousands of protestants, persecuted and oppressed in Germany, and elsewhere, and also in favour of protestants from Switzerland, &c. all of whom were before, and about this time, settled in the different provinces of the British continental colonies of America, chiefly on the back parts thereof westward.

By a statute for the increase of mariners and seamen to navigate merchant ships, and other trading ships and vessels, it was enacted, ' 1st, ' that all seamen of the age of fifty-five years or upwards, and all such ' as have not attained the full age of eighteen years, and also all foreign- ' ers serving in any British merchant ships or privateers, shall be ex- ' empted from being impressed into his majesty's service. 2dly, Per- ' sons of any age, using the sea, shall also be exempted from being ' impressed for the first two years of their being at sea; as shall like-

‘ wife all sea-apprentices for the first three years of their apprenticeship.’ [13 *Geo. II*, c. 17.]

It was about this time, or perhaps somewhat earlier, that the manufacture of tin-plates, or more properly of thin plates of iron tinned over, (which foreigners term white-iron) was brought to such perfection in England, after having been long lost or neglected, that now very little of it was imported from foreign parts: our own being now made of a finer gloss or skin than that made beyond sea, the later being hammered, and ours being drawn under a rolling-mill. This improvement is a considerable benefit to the nation in the general annual balance of trade; there being a very great quantity of this article consumed in Britain, Ireland, and the plantations, for a great variety of uses. And though the duty on foreign tinned-plates is thereby sunk, yet the employment given to our own manufacturers, and the money kept at home which was formerly paid for this commodity from Hamburgh, greatly over-balances the loss of the customs thereon. It was indeed long justly wondered at, that England, which had the best tin in Europe, and in the greatest quantity, and had iron enough for the purpose, should have so long continued to pay such great sums to foreign nations for what we might long since have made of our own.

The bounty of 20s per ton on ships employed in the whale fishery was continued to the 25th of December 1750; and an additional bounty of 10s per ton was granted on whale-fishing ships to continue during the war with Spain only: during which time also it was enacted, that no harpooneer, line-manager, boat-steerer, or seaman, in that fishery should be impressed from the said service. [13 *Geo. II*, c. 28.] This statute shews the sense the legislature had of the benefits accruing to the public by the whale fishery.

The Turks now began to establish regular posts for the carriage of letters throughout their dominions, after the manner of Christendom, which they hoped would be very advantageous to their commerce, and likewise to the sultan’s revenue, greatly impaired by the late wars with the emperor and with Russia.

It appeared by the information of persons of worth concerned in the two British tobacco colonies of Virginia and Maryland, that about 200 British ships were annually and constantly employed in that trade, viz. about 80 or 90 sail for Virginia, and about 110 to 120 for Maryland: that the ships trading thither from the out-ports of Great Britain were generally of a lesser burden than were those from the port of London: and that of about 30,000 hogsheds of tobacco, annually imported from those two colonies into Great Britain, 18,000 were brought home in the London ships. Also that this computation was exclusive of the vessels employed by those two colonies in their trade with our other British colonies in America and the West-Indies.

The anonymous author of a pamphlet, intitled the Present state of the revenues and forces of France and Spain, compared with those of Great Britain, (8vo, 1740) asserts, that in France there were not then more than 600 sail of merchant ships at the most, of all sizes. And that, reckoning 25 sailors to each, one with another, all the seamen of France did not exceed 30,000, including 11,000 seamen classed by the king, who have leave to serve onboard the merchant ships till wanted for the king's service. And that, in case of a naval war with Britain, France will be obliged to augment her marine to what it was in their former war with England, viz. to 120 ships of war and 40 galleys. What this plausible and spirited writer computes might then possibly be true; but we have since had recent experience, that both their merchant ships and sailors were considerably more in number than he then computed them to be.

This year the king, by letters-patent, erected civil and criminal courts of justice at his town and port of Gibraltar. How far this regulation has been put in practice since this time, or, if at all, how far it may, in time, influence greater numbers of British subjects to settle there, we shall not venture to guess: but, if that should come to be the case, the rents of houses would gradually increase, and therewith fines upon entry, acknowledgements for landing goods, as at Leghorn and other free ports, anchorage in the bay, leases of ground, some moderate taxes on liquors and provisions consumed there, and such other benefits which might naturally be expected from a civil government being established under the mild laws and privileges of a British constitution, which might possibly, altogether, produce such a local revenue as might in time ease the public of more than £60,000 per annum, which that most useful and important fort and port costs the British nation. Why our expectations in these respects have not been fully answered hitherto, lies properly before a higher tribunal than we shall name, whose interest is so nearly concerned therein; and whose power as well as inclinations, when proper informations shall be laid before them, can undoubtedly rectify whatever shall be found to have hitherto been amiss.

This year the king of Great Britain, who is also sovereign of the town of Staden in the duchy of Bremen, was graciously pleased entirely to remit to all British and Irish ships the antient toll payable at Staden by the ships of all nations in sailing up the river Elbe: for which bounty he received an humble address of thanks from the British company of merchants-adventurers trading to Hamburgh.

The king of Great Britain having been addressed in the preceding year by his parliament, for regulating the currency of the paper money of his American continental colonies, we shall here exhibit the value thereof as follows, viz.

New-England, (i. e. principally the Massachuset's-bay) Connecticut, Rhode-island, and New-Hampshire, L525 currency \*. For L100 sterling money.

|                |   |   |      |
|----------------|---|---|------|
| New-York       | - | - | 160  |
| The Jerseys    | - | - | 160  |
| Pennsylvania   | - | - | 170  |
| Maryland       | - | - | 200  |
| North-Carolina | - | - | 1400 |
| South-Carolina | - | - | 800  |

In the month of August 1740, the sale of the French East-India company's merchandize at Port L'Orient amounted to twenty-two millions of livres, or about one million sterling; which sufficiently demonstrates the vast increase of that company's commerce to East-India, in the space of a few years past.

During this year there arrived at Amsterdam 1645 ships, being 168 fewer than in the year 1738.

At that city, in the same year, there died 10,056 persons; being above 2500 more than in the preceding year.

At Paris, in 1739 Christened 19,781—Buried 21,989

———— 1740 ————— 18,632 ——— 25,285

47,273 in both years.

Average of burials, 23,636½ in one year.

The king sent out Commodore George Anson †, an experienced commander, with one ship of 60 guns, two of 50 guns, one of 40, and one of 20 guns, a sloop and two victuallers, to distress Spain as much as possible in the South sea. It is true, this expedition was rather a matter of war than of commercial history; yet, as it has some relation to

\* In a letter (on this occasion) from a merchant at Boston in New-England to a friend in England, concerning the different values of paper currency in the British plantations, we have an explanation thereof, viz. 'upon the continuance of a favourable turn in the trading circumstances of the province (of New-England) the government might stop at any rate which silver should fall to, and make that rate the fixed silver pound, and make it a lawful tender; and the common consent or acceptance of the people would complete the scheme of silver money. And thus the sterling pound is fixed, in England, to 3 ounces 17 penny-weight and 10 grains of silver of a certain fineness, or silver at 5½ per ounce. But, if that kingdom were under our unhappy circumstances, as not having a sufficiency in value of silver and all other exports, to discharge the whole demand in return for their' (i. e. Great Britain's) 'imports, it would then be next to a miracle if silver did not rise to above 5½ per ounce in the markets, in proportion to the ba-

lance of debt against them: and their trading circumstances continuing to decline, (as ours have) their silver would be brought to 27s per ounce (as ours is) and the current money of Great Britain be at the rate of 27s per ounce, whatever the lawful money might be. This is evident from the success of Queen Anne's proclamation, in the 3d year of her reign, and the act of parliament subsequent upon it, designed to fix the plantation pound to 2 ounces 16 penny-weights 16 grains of silver, of the fineness of common pieces of eight at 6s 1c½ per ounce; which most certainly was well intended, but for the aforesaid reasons could not take effect: and there is but one plantation that I know of, viz. Barbados, where common silver is received by weight, agreeable thereto: Virginia not so high, and all the others got beyond that standard, in very different degrees.' A.

† Afterwards created Lord Anson, and worthily placed at the head of the admiralty board.

commerce, and as it likewise shews Spain's feebleness in the South sea when at war with us, it seems needful, though very briefly, to relate its success. He sailed from Portsmouth in September 1740, and in May 1741 he got round Terra del Fuego into the South sea, after much peril and loss by storms. In September 1741, he took a rich Spanish prize; and, coasting along Chili, in November the same year, he took another Spanish prize, laden with cloth and iron. Sailing to the coast of Peru, he took, plundered, and burnt, the town of Payta, in the same month. Thence he sailed to the coast of Mexico, and opposite to the harbour of Acapulco, he learned that the Manilla ship was not to sail during that season; wherefor, in May 1742, he steered westward for the coast of China, where he arrived in November; and he remained in the road of Macao till April 1743, when he sailed for the Philippine isles; where, in June, he took a very rich Acapulco ship, bound for Manilla, with the treasure of which he sailed homeward, reaching the Cape of Good Hope in March 1744; and on the 14th of June he anchored at Spithead with only the Centurion, his 60 gun ship, all the rest being lost, or left as unable to proceed. This is the last British circumnavigation of the globe, much to the glory of the nation, and to the greatly-merited emolument of the noble commander of it\*.

There were exported this year from South-Carolina 91,110 barrels of rice, 10,263 barrels of pitch, 2374 barrels of tar, 562 barrels of turpentine, 432 hogsheds of deer-skins, besides chests and loose ones, &c. †

1741.—In the year 1741 the industrious and ingenious Mr. John Smart, of the city clerk's office in London, published an accurate account of the number of houses in every precinct of the twenty-five wards within the bars or limits of the lord mayor of London's jurisdiction, (the twenty-sixth ward, named Bridge-ward without, not having any houses reckoned therein) whereby he makes the whole number of houses therein to amount but to 21,649. And though in his dedication to the common council, he desires them to correct the errors in his account, (which, says he, like a modest man, I fear are many) yet, as he was known to be an accurate person, and that no one has *animadverted* on, nor contradicted his account, we may take it for granted that it is a true one. How inaccurate then must the writers of the former part of the preceding century have been in magnifying the number of souls within the jurisdiction beyond all rational probability? More especially when it is considered, that, after the great conflagration in 1666, very many void spaces were built up, as well as the ground of spacious houses and gardens of

\* Britain can boast of many circumnavigations since that one, and much more to the glory of the nation; in as much as the pursuits of science are more honourable than those of depredation, though perhaps not so much to the emolument of the commanders. *M.*

† The total value of the imports of England in the year 1740 was £6,703,778, and of the exports (not including coin and bullion) £8,197,788 [*Whitworth's State.*] *M.*



most of our nobility and gentry, &c. who formerly resided within those limits, which have since been built up into narrow streets, alleys, and courts; whereby the number of houses must, upon the whole, have been considerably increased since that fatal period; even though we admit, that, for the sake of ornament, several streets since then have been made wider and more uniform than they were before. The late great increase indeed of merchants and wholesale dealers in our own time in the city, has obliged them to pull down numbers of houses in different parts of it, to erect large warehouses with cellars, which farther lessens the number of houses.

The immense increase of the linen manufacture of the kingdom of Ireland at this time is almost astonishing, were there not so many undoubted living testimonies of it; enough indeed to alarm all the foreign linen countries, and to give solid pleasure to all truly intelligent Britons; as whatever adds to the wealth and strength of the kingdom of Ireland is a real accession of so much of both to the British empire. In a letter from Ireland, we were told, that, at the accession of King William III, Ireland did not export to the value of £6000 in linen; whereas, says the letter-writer, they now (1741) export annually an hundred times as much in value, or £600,000.

This great improvement was foretold long before by Sir William Temple, in his *Miscellanies*, [2d edition, 1681.] ‘No women,’ says that great man, ‘are apter to spin linen thread well than the Irish; who, labouring little in any kind with their hands, have their fingers more supple and soft than other women of the poor condition amongst us. And this may certainly be advanced and improved into a great manufacture of linen, so as to bear down the trade both of France and Holland, and draw much of the money which goes from England to those parts upon this occasion into the hands of his majesty’s subjects of Ireland, without crossing any interest of trade in England: for, besides what has been said of flax and spinning, the soil and climate are proper for whitening, both by the frequent brooks, and also winds in that country.’

By the English Russia company’s charter, of the first and second of Philip and Mary, which was confirmed by a statute of the eighth year of Queen Elizabeth, they have the sole privilege of trading from London to the dominions of Russia, and likewise to the countries of Armenia, Media, Hyrcania, and Persia, on the Caspian sea. An attempt was accordingly made by that company for trading into Persia by the great river Volga and the Caspian sea in the year 1558, as related under that year: but that project was soon dropped, as being then thought too hazardous; and it remained in suspense ever since, till now, when an act of parliament was obtained by that company, for opening a trade to and from Persia through Russia; in which a clause was inserted, where-



by the act of navigation of the 12th of King Charles II, which enjoins, that no merchandize shall be imported into England or Ireland but from the place of their growth, production, or manufacture, or from those parts where they could only be had, or were usually or actually wont to be first shipped for transportation, was so far dispensed with. And as raw silk and other Persian commodities had not been usually brought to England through Russia, it was hereby enacted, that they might nevertheless be so imported through Russia in British ships, legally navigated, such raw silk, &c. being purchased by barter with British manufactures or product exported to Russia, upon paying the like customs as the Levant company now pays for the same brought from the Levant. [14 *Geo. II, c. 36.*] This new scheme was for some time successfully practised; and considerable quantities of raw silk and other Persian merchandize were imported in this way, as appears by a supplemental statute of the 23d of the same king, for permitting raw silk of the growth or produce of Persia, purchased in Russia, to be imported into this kingdom from any port or place belonging to the empire of Russia: by which last statute it was enacted, 'that, from christmas 1750, all freemen of the Russia company, and they only, may import into this kingdom from Russia, in British-built ships, navigated according to law, raw silk of the growth of Persia, purchased by barter with woollen, or other manufactures, &c. from Great Britain to Russia, though the same be not carried from thence into Persia, or with the produce arising from the sale of such commodities, and not otherwise, attested upon oath, under the same customs and regulations, &c. as the Turkey company are subject to for raw silk from Persia.' Till the wars and desolations rendered that trade quite impracticable (as it remains to the present time) it was said to be a profitable branch of business to the Russia merchants.

At this time projects and schemes were published in the British continental colonies of America, for supplying a want, or supposed want, of a medium in trade, by setting up a bank on land security. The stock was to be raised by public subscriptions, whereof small sums were from time to time to be paid in by the subscribers, and to be managed by directors, treasurers, and other officers; and dividends were to be made: and the subscribers were to promise to receive the bills which they should issue as lawful money in all payments, trade, and business; and after the expiration of twenty years, to pay the possessor the value thereof in manufactures. And as sundry other schemes, societies, partnerships, or companies, have been proposed, and may be set on foot in America, contrary to the true intent and meaning of a statute [6 *Geo. I, c. 17*] for better securing certain powers and privileges intended to be granted by his majesty's two charters, for assurance of ships and merchandize at sea, &c. and for restraining several extravagant and

unwarrantable practices therein mentioned and described, and for preventing the like for the future; whereby, 'the presuming to act as a corporate body, or to make transfers or assignments of shares, without legal authority, or the pretending to act under any charter, formerly granted from the crown for any particular or special purposes therein expressed, by persons endeavouring to make use of such charter for any such other purpose not thereby intended, and all acting under any such obsolete charter herein described, should be deemed to be public nuisances, and to be triable accordingly, as by the statute of the 16th year of King Richard II. And whereas doubts have arisen whether that act does extend to his majesty's dominions in America,' it was now enacted, (14th of King George II, for restraining and preventing several unwarrantable schemes and undertakings in his majesty's colonies and plantations in America) 'that the said act of the 6th of King George I, and every part thereof, shall extend to British America, and the contraveners shall be liable to the like fines, punishments, &c. to be tried in the king's courts in America.' This was a prudently-intended law: for, as our colonies grow greater and more populous, projects might get into their heads, which would prove very detrimental to the industry and parsimony necessary to such colonies.

As the remote west and north-west parts of the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland, and the isles thereunto belonging, were found to be inaccurately laid down in the sea-charts, a statute passed [14 *Geo. II, c. 39*] for surveying the chief ports and headlands on the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland, and the islands and plantations thereto belonging, in order to the more exact determination of the longitude and latitude thereof. The act recites the statute of the 12th of Queen Anne, for providing a public reward for such persons as shall discover the longitude at sea, which directs the commissioners of the navy to set apart £2000 for making experiments towards finding out the said longitude; and the commissioners for discovering the longitude are empowered to apply such part of the said £2000 as has not already been laid out in experiments for making such survey, and determining the longitude and latitude of the said chief ports and headlands. It is even still to be apprehended, that some parts on the British shores, and more especially the western coasts of Britain and Ireland, require a more accurate survey; but more than the whole sum herein named would be required to execute that necessary point to effectual purpose.

There were married in the year 1741 at Amsterdam 2666 couples of persons, and buried 9864 persons.

There arrived this year at Amsterdam 1813 ships, as by the Dutch newspapers, viz.

|   | Ships. |
|---|--------|
| There came from Sweden                    | 25     |
| Russia, and other parts of the Baltic sea | 405    |
| Greenland and Davis's straits             | 150    |
| France                                    | 336    |
| Spain                                     | 111    |
| Portugal                                  | 80     |
| Italy                                     | 23     |
| The Levant                                | 10     |
| Barbary                                   | 5      |
| East-India                                | 15     |
| The West-Indies                           | 99     |
|   | <hr/>  |
|   | 1259   |

As England, Scotland, Ireland, and Flanders, are not named, the rest must have come from thence, as being near neighbours, and may very well be supposed to have amounted to 554 vessels of all kinds. It is needless here to remark, how vast a commerce must be carried on by this mighty city, and consequently what immense riches its inhabitants must be possessed of.

1742.—After twenty years silence concerning the much wished for, and frequently attempted, north-west passage, an ingenious and knowing gentleman of Ireland, Arthur Dobbes Esquire, (since governor of North-Carolina) earnestly applied to the admiralty board to make a new attempt for finding that supposed passage, at the government's expense; urging the great probability of finding it, by sundry very plausible arguments. The king and his ministers being unwilling to discourage a proposal, which, if successful, must be attended with great advantages to the nation, gave directions to the admiralty board (where Sir Charles Wager, an experienced navigator, at this time presided) to send out two of the king's ships on that discovery, under the direction of Captain Christopher Middleton, who had been twenty years a commander in the Hudson's-bay company's service.

His instructions \* from the board of admiralty, on a supposition of finding a passage, were in substance as follows:

In places where you meet with inhabitants, make purchases, with their consent, and take possession of convenient situations in the country, in the name of his majesty of Great Britain: but where there are no inhabitants, you must take possession, by setting up proper inscriptions, as first discoverers and possessors. If in your passage you meet with any ships trading to the western countries eastward of Japan, or any Japanese ships, and you apprehend any danger from them, either

\* The instructions are printed in Captain Middleton's defence of his own conduct, published in the year 1743. A.

from their force or number, you are to proceed no farther on the discovery, but immediately to return; that ships of sufficient force may be sent out next season to begin a trade or make a settlement, without any apprehension of disturbance from any powerful nations on that side, lest any accident should prevent your return, and discourage any farther attempts to be made for the future. If you should arrive at California, without any apprehension of danger, and choose to winter in 42 degrees, (where Caxton is said to have found a civilized nation, and a good harbour) or else more southerly; then endeavour to meet Captain Anson in the month of December, before the arrival of the Manilla or Acapulco ship at Cape St. Lucas, the southern cape of California, and leave a copy of your journal with him, lest any accident should happen to you upon your return, and so the discovery be lost, and that it might prevent ships being sent out to your relief in case of shipwreck.

*Charles Wager,*

Given under our hands, the 20th of May 1741. *Thomas Frankland,*  
*Glenorchy.*

He sailed in 1741 on the discovery, and wintered in Hudson's bay at one of the company's forts at Churchill river; and in the summer of 1742 he sailed again as far north as  $66\frac{1}{2}$  degrees, and searched into an inlet or river, westward, which he named Wager river, &c. and being now fully confirmed that no such passage was to be found, he returned home that same year with the king's ships.

This produced a great deal of altercation in print between him and Mr. Dobbes, who was so eagerly bent on that discovery: Captain Middleton insisting on the above inlet's being merely a river, and Mr. Dobbes insisting it was the passage wished for, though he was never in those seas, wherein the captain had greatly the advantage of him. Mr. Dobbes accused the later of favouring the Hudson's-bay company, who, as he alleged, had no sort of inclination to forward this discovery, as believing it would be the means of laying their trade open, to which they certainly have no legal exclusive right by act of parliament, but merely by King Charles II's charter. He also alleged, that this company sell their goods to the savages in that bay at 2000 per cent profit: he is therefor for dissolving the company, and for laying the trade open to all the king's subjects. He accuses him (whom, however, he admits to be a capable person) as well as the company, of knowing and concealing the passage; and insists, that there are many marks of such a passage; as, particularly, the saltness of the water, the strength of tides and currents up Wager strait or river, and black whales being found in it, and in the opening called the Welcome, near it. Yet Captain Middleton endeavours to account for this, by supposing some under-ground passage for the sea out of Baffin's bay, or Davis's straits, &c. And here we must leave this dark subject for the present.

The old or original capital of the bank of England of £1,600,000 being at an interest of 6 per cent till the 1st of August 1743, when also that company's exclusive privileges expire, and the natural interest of money being at this time very low, the government availing itself thereof, made this year a contract with the bank, and had it confirmed by parliament, that the bank should advance £1,600,000 more without any additional interest whatever, (i. e. by agreeing that both sums, amounting to £3,200,000, should bear an interest of only 3 per cent); in consideration of which service to the public, the bank, by this statute, had their privileges of banking, exclusive of any partnership beyond six persons, till one year's notice, and repayment of principal and arrears, after the 1st of August 1764. By this act, persons forging, counterfeiting, or altering any bank note, bill of exchange, dividend warrant, or any bond or obligation under that company's seal, or any indorsement thereon, or knowingly uttering the same, shall suffer death without benefit of clergy. Moreover, the company's servants breaking their trust to the company shall suffer death as felons without benefit of clergy. It was also enacted, that when, at a court of directors of the bank, neither the governor nor deputy-governor shall attend in two hours after the time appointed for business, then any thirteen or more of the directors may choose a chairman for the time, for the dispatch of business; which court shall be as valid as if either the governor or deputy-governor had duly attended. Hereby the bank was authorized to take in subscriptions for advancing the said £1,600,000 \*. [15 *Geo. II, c. 13.*]

The parliament taking into their consideration, that the linen manufactures of Great Britain and Ireland were of late years greatly improved, whereby the prices, as well of foreign as of home fabric, were considerably reduced, in order to extend those advantages as much as possible, laid an additional duty on foreign cambrics imported of  $\frac{1}{5}$  for every half piece, and  $\frac{2}{10}$  for every whole piece; out of which additional duty there was allowed a bounty of 1*d* for every yard of British and Irish linen, worth from 6*d* to 12*d* per yard in value, and one half-penny per yard for linen under the value of 6*d* per yard, exported. [15, 16 *Geo. II, c. 29.*]

It has, for very many years past, been judged of the utmost consequence, that the trade and navigation to and from the British American plantations should be entirely confined and secured solely to British, Irish, and American, subjects: for which end it was, by a statute of the 7th and 8th of King William III, and the 5th of Queen Anne, and now confirmed by an act of parliament [15, 16 *Geo. II, c. 31*] for farther regulating the plantation-trade, &c. enacted, that all ships trading

\* The capital stock of the bank was now £9,800,000, yielding to the proprietors a dividend of five and a half per cent. *M.*

from Britain and Ireland, and also all the ships of our American plantations, should be registered as British, Irish, or plantation, built, or else prize-ships made free: and a certificate of such register was to be always ready in the master's hands: many frauds had nevertheless been discovered in this respect, certificates of such registers having been frequently sold to foreigners, whose ships, under colour thereof, have been admitted to trade to and from the British plantations, contrary to those former laws. For prevention whereof, the master of every ship arriving in America must now take an oath of all the qualifications necessary for ascertaining such ship to be a qualified one for trading thither, and to be absolutely and solely the property of his majesty's British, Irish, or American, subjects.

Some Russian adventurers from Tartary having now, as well as in some former years, discovered the coasts of America, of which they actually had sight, and particularly of California, had, it seems, sailed  $12\frac{1}{2}$  degrees north of that country, where no voyager had been before. From those discoveries of the Russians, it may be concluded (says Dr. Busching, in the first volume of his very valuable Geography of Europe, p. 524, English translation), that Asia and America, about the 66th degree of north latitude, are separated from each other only by a very narrow channel.

At the city of Dublin in this year 1742 there were christened 1357 children; buried 2320 persons. This last number, multiplied by 33, gives the probable number of souls in Dublin to be 76,560, provided the numerous papists of that city, and all the protestant dissenters duly register their burials, which is at least doubtful.

At Amsterdam there arrived this year 1591 ships.

1743.—Though the controversy from the press between Mr. Dobbes and Captain Middleton, concerning the passage through Hudson's bay westward to China, &c. and the nature of the Hudson's-bay company's trade with the savages of that bay, be too prolix to be totally transcribed into this work, yet there were sundry branches thereof thereby brought to light, which are well worth recording.

The captain, in his farther vindication, printed in 1743, observes, 'that, until a little above twenty years before, the voyage to Hudson's bay was seldom made without wintering there.' This shews that the company has thereby made a considerable improvement therein, and a considerable saving must needs be made by not wintering at their forts on so inhospitable a shore.

Mr. Dobbes has taken the pains to give the public the entire sale of all that company's returns in the year 1743, viz.

|                               |   |   |   |       |    |   |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|-------|----|---|
| 26,750 beaver skins, sold for | - | - | - | L9780 | 4  | 0 |
| 12,370 marten's skins         | - | - | - | 4242  | 7  | 0 |
| 2360 damaged ditto            | - | - | - | 442   | 10 | 0 |



|                               |   |   |   |   |         |    |   |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---------|----|---|
| 590 otter's skins             | - | - | - | - | L413    | 0  | 0 |
| 850 cats                      | - | - | - | - | 765     | 0  | 0 |
| 260 damaged ditto             | - | - | - | - | 52      | 0  | 0 |
| 320 foxes                     | - | - | - | - | 200     | 0  | 0 |
| 600 woolverines               | - | - | - | - | 205     | 0  | 0 |
| 170 ditto, damaged            | - | - | - | - | 27      | 12 | 0 |
| 320 black bears               | - | - | - | - | 368     | 0  | 0 |
| 1580 wolves                   | - | - | - | - | 1580    | 0  | 0 |
| 270 ditto, damaged, and stags | - | - | - | - | 123     | 15 | 0 |
| 40 woodshock skins            | - | - | - | - | 22      | 6  | 0 |
| 10 mink skins                 | - | - | - | - | 1       | 10 | 0 |
| 5 racoon skins                | - | - | - | - | 0       | 16 | 0 |
| 120 squirrel skins            | - | - | - | - | 2       | 0  | 0 |
| <hr/>                         |   |   |   |   | <hr/>   |    |   |
| 46,615 of all forts, sold for | - | - | - | - | L18,226 | 0  | 0 |

He adds the following articles, but without their prices, viz. 130 elk skins, 440 deer skins, 3170 pound weight of bed-feathers, and 220 lb. in a tick, 140 castorum, 470 whale fins, 23 casks of whale oil, and 8 lb. of wesaguipaka.

|  |         |   |   |
|--|---------|---|---|
| And in their March sale 40,125 beaver, worth | L14,670 | 0 | 0 |
| Unvalued goods, about                        | 400     | 0 | 0 |
| <hr/>  |         |   |   |
| Total amount of their sales in the year 1743 | L33,296 | 0 | 0 |

Upon this state of this little company's sales, we may observe, that if their capital stock be but about L100,000, and that thereon they had not for many years divided more than 10 per cent on that capital annually, and if this year's sale be any rule to determine for other years, it will follow that the company's annual expense for shipping, forts, garrisons, salaries, and home charges, may be about L20,000. So that, though Mr. Dobbes has spared no pains to be master of this subject, yet, after all, considering the risks the company constantly runs, their gains are little to be envied. Captain Middleton tells us, that the company has in all 120 persons, officers, soldiers, and servants, in their four forts in Hudson's bay; which forts are absolutely requisite for their people employed in preparing cargoes during winter, against the arrival of their ships, as well as to protect them from the attempts of the savages and of wild beasts. So that, if the company should be dissolved, as Mr. Dobbes proposes, and the trade laid open, those forts must be kept up by a rate, or tax, on the private traders; and undoubtedly the company must, in such a case, have a reasonable compensation for them: and as the company, through the means of the forts, by their long experience of the trade, and by some sort of correspondence with

the savages, have raised, and for many years carried on, a commerce very beneficial to the nation, they might reasonably hope for a farther compensation on that account likewise. - All things therefor being duly weighed, it may seem doubtful, whether it would be more eligible to dissolve the company, in expectation (as Mr. Dobbes believes) of extending the trade much farther when laid open, or to suffer this branch of our commerce to go on in its present channel; unless the so-much-desired passage westward to the Asiatic world could be found practicable; in which case, indeed, there may be found good reasons for taking those forts into national management, and for erecting others in that supposed passage: Mr. Dobbes, Captain Middleton, and others also, later than them, have described sundry very plausible symptoms of a communication with the sea of Japan. Yet, on the other hand, even supposing that communication to be certain, it may happen to be impracticable for shipping, either through its frozen situation (like Weygatz straits), or from its being blocked up by rocks and small islands; or, lastly, it may be found too hazardous and impracticable to guard and keep it to ourselves alone, for reasons obvious enough. Should our nation be the discoverers of such a practicable passage westward, it would doubtless open sundry new and very unusual scenes, and commercial opportunities, and would give us great advantages over other nations, not only in shortening the voyage to Japan and China, and even to India, properly so called, and to the adjacent isles; but likewise in opening a commerce to us with the whole west side of North-America, without rivals, where mines of the richer metals are known to abound near and at New-Mexico, California, &c. More fine-spun speculations of this kind would rather amuse than inform, and therefor we shall leave them; and come again to more practicable matter.

Mr. Dobbes has given us a catalogue of British manufactures, &c. which the Hudson's-bay company exchanges with the Indians. He says that *one beaver's skin* is the standard medium of circulation, and is the established price of each of the following articles, viz.

|                                   |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| A pound weight of brass kettles,  | 2 combs,              |
| 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of gunpowder, | 2 yards of gartering, |
| 5 lb. of lead shot,               | 1 pair of breeches,   |
| 6 lb. of Brazil tobacco,          | 1 pistol, or          |
| 1 yard of bayse,                  | 2 hatchets.           |

The other skins and goods of the savages are, doubtless, valued also by this standard of a beaver-skin, though he has not shewn the proportions thereof.

Other goods usually carried thither are, glass-beads, black-lead, sugar, thread, vermilion, brandy, broad cloth, blankets, duffles, flannel, awl-blades, buttons, fish-hooks, fire-steels, files, guns, flints, yarn, mittins, handkerchiefs, hats, hawks-bells, knives, ice-chizels, looking-glasses,

needles, net-lines, rings for the fingers, runlets, sword-blades, spoons, shirts, shoes, stockings, sashes, worsted, thimbles, tobacco-boxes, tongs, trunks, twine, &c. Which shews, in some measure, that Mr. Dobbes's opinion may be right, that the extension of this trade farther into the vast inland countries, southward and south-east from the bay, might prove a national advantage. Yet, whether those countries be so fertile and so well inhabited as he alleges, is at least doubtful.

There was exported by the Hudson's-bay company in the year 1737 to the value of - - - - - L4124 18 2

In the year 1738 - - - - - 3879 17 11

Thus this dispute between Mr. Dobbes and Captain Middleton has brought to light more particulars for illustrating this trade, than either the company would, probably, have readily done, or the public could have otherwise expected.

Mr. Dobbes has moreover given us also a catalogue of the peltry imported from Canada, or New-France, into the port of Rochel, for the year 1743, viz.

|                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 127,080 beaver skins,      | 1220 fine cats,             |
| 16,512 bears,              | 1267 wolves,                |
| 110,000 racoons,           | 92 wolverines,              |
| 30,325 martens,            | 10,280 grey foxes and cats, |
| 12,428 otters and fishers, | 451 red foxes ;             |
| 1700 minks,                |                             |

in all 311,355 skins, worth about L120,000 sterling, according to the above valuation of the Hudson's-bay peltry.

Both Mr. Dobbes and Captain Middleton admit, that there is a good copper-mine on the west side of Hudson's bay, not far from the coast, which might, probably, be brought to good account, were a fort built near it. It is on that west side, where the company's chief forts and trade are less in danger of being annoyed by the French forts north of Canada, and which were much too near ours on the south side of Hudson's bay, such as our best and strongest fort, named the Prince of Wales's fort, from whence in 1742 the company got 20,000 beaver's skins; that on Churchill river; York-fort on Nelson's river, antiently called on our maps Port-Nelson; another on New-Severn river; one on Albany river; and one on Moose river, at the very southern extremity of the bay; where they keep themselves close, both summer and winter for the most part, having no country plantations, and with only a kitchen garden under the walls of their forts, wherein they raise a few herbs and greens. Whereas, says Mr. Dobbes, would the company settle and build forts higher up from the sea, on the west and south sides of the bay; where the frosts and cold are not near so intense, and where they will find a rich country, well wooded, with all manner of plants, herbs, &c. with plenty of grass, rivers, and lakes; or rather, were the

trade laid open, and those fine inland countries upon Rupert's, Moose, Albany, and Nelson, rivers, settled by our people, we might regain the whole trade from the French, and supply the natives with woollen and iron wares, &c. which, he says, the company do not do; but, instead thereof, by their exorbitant rates, do enable the French from Canada to undersell them. He adds, with respect to this company, that eight or nine private merchants engross nine tenth parts of the company's capital stock, whereby they are perpetual directors. Mr. Dobbes, for the greater corroboration of his opinion of the probability of a passage out of Hudson's bay into the South seas, gives us an abstract of the voyage of De Fonté, the vice-admiral of Peru, from Lima northward, on the west side of North-America, as far as the Tartarian seas in 77 degrees of north latitude, in the year 1640, by order of the king of Spain, who had advice of fresh attempts in 1639 for a north-west passage by certain navigators from New-England; and that the Spanish admiral had found in those seas a ship from Boston in New-England, commanded by one Captain Shaply, who was told by that admiral, that his instructions were, to make prize of any people seeking a north-west passage into the South sea; but that, nevertheless, he would look upon them as merchants trading with the natives for beavers, &c. and so dismissed him generously. Which account Mr. Dobbes thinks has all the appearance of being authentic, though it is plain there are sundry very improbable circumstances in it; particularly that admiral's asserting, at the conclusion of his journal, that he found there was no passage into that sea by what is called the north-west passage, after he had related his finding the New-England ship in the Tartarian sea; which circumstance, however, Mr. Dobbes has laboured to clear up. He thinks, that ship might have passed into the Tartarian sea through some of the openings near Whale-cove, in trading for furs, and might have been afterwards lost, or else surprised by the Esquimaux savages, upon her return home, seeing no account of this voyage was ever transmitted from Boston; and that, upon Sir Charles Wager's making inquiry, whether any of the name of Shaply had lived at that time in Boston, it did appear from certain writings, that some of that name had then lived at Boston; which, says Mr. Dobbes, adds to the weight of De Fonté's account, and confirms its being an authentic journal\*.

The suburbs of London still increasing on every side, and particularly towards the hamlet of Bethnal green, which at this time was increased to about 1800 houses, and computed to have more than 15,000 inhabitants, which is above eight persons to each house (by reason they are mostly manufacturers, and the meaner sort of working people, many

\* If such a voyage had been undertaken from Boston, the memory of it could not have been utterly lost in that place in the course of a century. But the discoveries of Fuente, and De Fuca (another fabricated Spanish navigator) are now universally allowed to be mere fables. The Spaniards have no accounts of any such discoverers. M.

lodgers often crowding into one house) an act of parliament was passed [16 *Geo. II, c. 28*] to make that hamlet a separate and distinct parish from that of St. Dunstan's, Stepney; and for erecting a parish-church therein, since known by the name of St. Matthew Bethnal-green.

There were buried during the year 1743, at Dublin 2,193 persons,  
 Christened - - - - - 1,517

The number of burials multiplied by 30 gives 65,790  
 if by 33, is more 6,579

By this rule, the persons in Dublin were - 72,369

We are obliged to wish we could depend on those mortality bills.

1744.—The English East-India company, in consideration of an enlargement for 14 years longer of their present exclusive trade and privileges, agreed to advance one million of money for the public exigency, for the year 1744, at 3 per cent interest. Which was accordingly confirmed by an act of parliament [17 *Geo. II, c. 17*] for granting to his majesty the surplus or remainder of the duties on spirituous liquors, granted, &c. to commence from michaelmas 1744; the company being for this end enabled to borrow money on their common-seal by creating a million of new bonds, at 3 per cent interest. So that the entire debt thenceforth due by the public to this company was L4,200,000, hereby declared to be redeemable upon one year's notice after lady-day 1745, by payments of not less than L500,000 at any one time. Yet, notwithstanding such redemption, this company shall continue to enjoy their exclusive commerce to East-India for the term granted by former laws; and, in consideration of this loan to the public, they shall have an addition of fourteen years to their present exclusive term, which will therefor extend to three years notice to be given by parliament after lady-day 1780; and at the expiration of the said three years, and repayment of the above L4,200,000, and all arrears of interest, then their title to an exclusive trade shall cease and determine. Yet, after the said determination, the company shall continue to have a common right with other subjects in and to the trade to India.

Thus the present condition of the East-India company is as follows,

Due to them in their corporate capacity L3,200,000 at 4 per cent, being L128,000 per annum; and L1,000,000 at 3 per cent, being L30,000 per annum.

In our war with Spain we happened, about two years and an half before this time, to seize on the island of Rattan near the bay of Honduras, belonging to that kingdom; and now the British parliament made an estimate and provision for the expense of a garrison, fortifications, stores, &c. for it; it being thought extremely well situated for a

trade between Jamaica and the Spanish main. Yet, soon after, on a general peace, it was again restored to Spain.

The French having, as formerly noted, considerably gained upon England in their trade to the Levant, not only by the shortness of the voyage thither from Marseilles, but also by judiciously studying the manufacturing of such kinds of slight, though fine-looking, woollen cloths, as may best suit their climate, which they can afford to sell at a cheaper rate than that of our more substantial, and really finer, drapery; besides their supplying the Turks, also cheaper than we can, with great quantities of sugar, indigo, &c. it was at this time much canvassed, in conversation, pamphlets, and newspapers, whether the shortest way for England to regain the ascendant in that very important branch of commerce would not be to lay the Turkey trade entirely open to all British subjects. This went so far with many, that a bill was brought into parliament for enlarging and regulating the trade to the Levant seas; hoping, that, by the number of traders in an open trade, they should be able to undersell the French, and recover the ground which they had gradually lost. But our Turkey or Levant company, being heard at the bar of the house, gave thereby, and by their printed case, such convincing reasons against the bill, that it was at length dropped. The company readily admitted that their trade was much decayed; but they alleged in substance the following genuine reasons for that declension, viz.

That, during the most flourishing periods of their trade, it was principally carried on with a coarse kind of cloth, made entirely of English wool, in which no other nation could vie with them. But the French, after the treaty of the Pyrenees, enjoying a long course of prosperity, turned their views very much to foreign commerce, and particularly to that of the Levant, which the great Colbert pushed forward at a vast public expense; till at length the cloth manufacture of Languedoc, made of two thirds Spanish wool and one third of the wool of that province, could be afforded at as low a price in Turkey as the English could afford to sell a coarser cloth, made all of their own wool, not worth above 9d per lb. That this superiority of the material, and also that of the finer spinning, made a more showy cloth, which, though slighter, found its vent in a warmer climate. That, moreover, the French make cloths of all Spanish wool for the Turkey markets, which they sell cheaper than ours; though ours be more substantial. And though there are English cloths made of a mixture of English and Spanish wool, yet the French cloth of that sort happens to be much cheaper. That the French, by this acquired advantage of Spanish wool, have got the better of the natural one which we long enjoyed; and that our clothiers are not able to make such a cloth to suit the Turks, so cheap as the French can and do afford theirs before-mentioned. That,



moreover, the French have increased their trade to Turkey by carrying thither indigo and coffee in great quantities, which we have not, as also sugar, which they sell much cheaper than we can do. The wars of the great Peter, czar of Russia, against Persia having obstructed the bringing of Sherbaff silk from the province of Ghilaun through Turkey, the English before that period usually bought at Aleppo and Smyrna at least 1000 bales, one year with another, worth about £100 each bale, and chiefly in barter for our cloth; a great part whereof the silk merchants carried back into Persia, so that little or no silk comes now that way; and indeed it is now permitted to be brought through Russia, as is also rhubarb, once a good article of return, but now become a monopoly in the hands of that court. And that, though that province has been restored to Persia, yet the wars that have since been in those provinces have so interrupted the commerce, that it is now much diverted into the other channel through Russia. That there is a decrease, of one half at least, in the consumption of sundry drugs, as well as in galls, goats-wool, and mohair-yarn, occasioned by the change of fashions. That the great increase of Italian and Spanish raw silk also lessens the vent for Turkey raw silk; although those silks are bought with ready money; whereas the Turkey raw silk is taken in return for the British manufactures sold there. That the company, confiding in the royal charters and privileges, have constantly carried on a very considerable commerce to Turkey, whither they annually export large quantities of woollen and other manufactures, &c. and bring back great quantities of raw silk, mohair-yarn, &c. for the use of our home manufactures; and are at a very great expense in supporting the charge of an ambassador at Constantinople, and of consuls in other parts of Turkey; as also in obtaining and renewing the needful capitulations with the Ottoman Porte, and in making considerable settlements at Constantinople, Aleppo, Smyrna, &c. and that they apprehend this bill will deprive them of those privileges, so dearly purchased, if it does not likewise occasion the total loss of the trade.

It seems the Jews were very active in promoting this bill, which afforded the company and their friends within doors an occasion to explain to the parliament and people, how probable it was, that they would, by being admitted, as was by many intended, into this trade, when laid open, engross the entire Levant trade, in conjunction with their own people in Turkey, who are the agents for the great men there, and the general brokers for merchants; and who, by combination amongst themselves, very much govern the sale of merchandize. For which, and other reasons, it was judged fit to drop the bill. This brief account will let those who were before ignorant of the nature of this trade, in a great measure into at least a general idea of it, which, indeed, is as much as

persons, unacquainted with the practice of that particular branch of commerce, can reasonably desire to know.

We shall close this year, 1744, with a summary view of the state of the stock and funds of the bank of England, viz.

|   |           |            |
|---|-----------|------------|
| The original capital doubled, and reduced to 3 per cent interest, is          | - - - - - | L3,200,000 |
| For cancelling exchequer bills ( <i>3<sup>th</sup> Geo. I</i> ) at 4 per cent | - - - - - | 500,000    |
| Purchased in 1722, of the South-sea company, at 4 per cent                    | - - - - - | 4,000,000  |
| Annuities charged on the surplus of the funds of lottery 1714, at 4 per cent  | - - - - - | 1,250,000  |
| Annuities at 4 per cent, charged on the duty on coals since lady-day 1710     | - - - - - | 1,750,000  |

Total bank capital - L10,700,000

Besides the several 3 per cent lottery annuities transferable at the bank, i. e. of the year 1731, being L800,000; of the year 1742, being also L800,000; of the year 1743, being L1,800,000; and the like sum of the year 1744, or L1,800,000; all which four last sums are quite separate and distinct from what is known by the name of the capital stock of the bank, the said four sums being entitled to their respective annuities alone, without any other profit whatever; whereas the capital stock of L10,700,000 was entitled to all the benefits of that company's banking, in the largest sense of that word. We are here, however, to note, that though the principal sum of L10,700,000 was actually due from the public to the bank, yet the transferable capital in the bank books, as divided among all their proprietors, was really but L9,800,000 bank stock; there being the sum of L900,000 undivided capital remaining in that company's corporate capacity; by the interest whereof, and their profits by banking (i. e. by all the advantages the bank can make, either by circulating the government's exchequer bills, and by other dealings with the public; by what they make by discounting merchants bills of exchange; by dealing in foreign bullion; and, lastly, by employing so much of the cash of their circulating notes as is not judged absolutely requisite to remain in bank, for answering all the demands of those notes, that prudent and most useful corporation was enabled to make at this time an annual dividend of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on their transferable capital of L9,800,000.

|   |           |         |
|---|-----------|---------|
| Now the annual interest paid to them from the public on L3,200,000, at 3 per cent, is | - - - - - | L96,000 |
| And on L7,500,000, at 4 per cent, is  | - - - - - | 300,000 |

Total of the bank's interest from the public - L396,000

But, as the bank has for several years past divided  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent yearly to the proprietors of the said L9,800,000, being - - - - - L539,000

By deducting the said yearly interest received from the public, being - - - - - 396,000

There remain, as the annual profits of the said L900,000, their undivided capital, and all their other various profits by banking, as aforesaid, amounting together to - 143,000

Now, if the interest paid by the government for the L900,000 undivided capital, at 4 per cent, be deducted, being - - - - - 36,000

Then the clear annual profits of the bank, by their money concerns with the public, and by all their other certainly-known banking concerns, will be - - - 107,000

Deduct thereout (suppose) for house-expence of all kinds, as salaries, &c. - - - - - 17,000

And there will remain then of the known annual profit by mere banking - - - - - 90,000

Lastly, some might possibly be so much farther inquisitive as to form conjectures, for they can be no other, concerning the proportion which the quantum of ready cash, always necessary to be reserved in this, or any other, public or private bank for the circulation of all their cash notes and credit of accounts in a bank, bears, or should bear, to the total amount of those cash notes and credit; and which is the ultimate article in all banking business, and probably also the most considerable one, more especially with respect to our London private bankers, though, at the same time, an extremely casual and uncertain one: nevertheless, as this last point may be properly termed the fair and reasonable mystery or secret of all banking, we can see no benefit which can arise by any such minute inquiries to the generality of men; neither do we apprehend them proper to be inquired into at all, without there should arise any reasonable suspicion of fraud. For it has been a political observation of long standing, that even the reputation of great and powerful monarchies and states often subsists more by common fame or opinion than by real strength or ability (*'magis fama quam vi'*); so it may more strictly and properly be applicable to a bank and bankers; of which we had a most pregnant instance a few years ago at breaking up and dividing the profits of an eminent partnership of a private bank in the city of London, which for many years had cleared or divided several thousand pounds yearly for the partnership; when, upon appraising all the real stock of that partnership before the highest judge

of Great Britain, it appeared, even to that great man's amazement, that the whole did not amount to above three or four hundred pounds, entirely consisting of shop implements, and certain household furniture, &c.

Perhaps this observation may, in some respects, be extended to most of the great commercial, as well as banking, societies of the world; whose internal condition, circumstances, and profits, it is by no means proper too narrowly to pry into, so long as they, to all appearances, are prosperous and punctual in all their affairs; though, like a private merchant, their circumstances may not be alike prosperous at all times.

1745.—Having read in Ker of Ker's Memoirs; that the city of Hamburgh had no fewer than 5000 ships and boats belonging to it, and that loose way of describing its naval commerce not giving me sufficient satisfaction, I applied in the year 1745 to a Hamburgh broker or agent, then residing at London, concerning the truth thereof; who freely acknowledged, that, if all the boats on the river Elbe belonging to Hamburgh, and the vast number of vessels which that opulent city constantly employed in carrying merchandize up and down that large river, to and from the countries of Mecklenburg, Pomerania, Saxony, Brandenburg, Bohemia, Silesia, &c. were to be taken into the account, he knew not whether there might not be so many of all kinds; but that the number of real ships trading on the Ocean and belonging to Hamburgh was not above 300; whereof 150 were from 200 to upwards of 500 tons burden, 27 of which ships were then actually lying in the river Thames: and that the remaining 150 were what are usually called small craft, or coasters, trading principally to Holland. Besides those, they had three ships of war for the protection of their commerce from the Barbary rovers, which they keep constantly in their pay, viz. two of 40 to 50 guns each, and the third a smaller frigate. This account, seemingly a probable one, gives an high idea of the extensive commerce and numerous shipping of that city.

The discovery of a north-west passage to the seas of Japan and China, continuing to be much the subject of conversation, an act of parliament passed [18 *Geo. II, c. 17*] whereby it was enacted, that if any ship of his majesty's subjects shall find out, and sail through, any passage by sea between Hudson's-bay and the western and southern ocean of America, the owner, or his assigns, shall receive a reward of £20,000. The commissioners for determining this discovery are therein named, being the great officers of state, and of the treasury, admirals, &c. Provided, however, that nothing in this act shall anyways extend to the prejudice of any part of the estate, rights, or privileges, belonging to the governor and company of adventurers of England trading into Hudson's bay.

To prevent the frauds committed in counterfeiting the stamps put on British and Irish linen, in order to receive the bounty allowed on their exportation, a statute passed this same year [*c. 24*] for effectually

preventing the exportation of foreign linens, under the denomination of British or Irish linens.

And by the next statute [*c.* 25] it was enacted, that whereas the linen manufactures of Britain and Ireland are of late years greatly improved and increased, whereby the price of linens, as well of foreign as of home fabric, hath been considerably reduced, a farther bounty on their exportation was hereby enacted, of one halfpenny per yard on linen of the value of 5*d* and not exceeding 12*d* per yard; and of three halfpence per yard on linen from above 12*d* to 1/6 per yard; with fundry other regulations for preventing frauds, &c. This statute, it is hoped, will in time produce great and good consequences for the increase of our own, and the discouraging of foreign, linens, for which such great sums are and have so long been paid, to supply the British, African, and American, trades, and all our other exportations of linens; whereby our own people will be employed, and the money kept at home, so long paid to Germany, Prussia, and Russia for the same.

As the next statute [*c.* 26] for repealing the inland duty of 4*s* per pound weight upon all tea sold in Great Britain, and for granting to his majesty certain other inland duties in lieu thereof, &c. relates only to the alterations thereby made in the manner of collecting the duty on that commodity, we shall take no farther notice of it, than merely to remark, that it was provided, that if at any time the British East-India company shall neglect to keep the London market supplied with a sufficient quantity of tea at reasonable prices, to answer the consumption thereof in Great Britain, the board of treasury may grant licences to any other person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, to import teas into Great Britain from any part of Europe, subject to the like duties, restrictions, and limitations, &c. as are prescribed with respect to tea to be imported by the East-India company from any part of Europe, &c.

It being evidently for the advantage of Great Britain, and particularly for the farther promoting of her own linen manufactures and those of Ireland, that the wearing of foreign cambrics and French lawns should not be permitted, a statute [*18 Geo. II, c.* 36] for prohibiting the wearing and importation of cambrics and French lawns, enacted, that it shall not be lawful for any person in Great Britain to wear any cambric or French lawn, under the penalty of L5, and the like penalty on the sellers thereof, &c. If this law was seriously intended to be executed, as its title and preamble seem to import, there is reason to apprehend it has not fully answered the intention; neither, perhaps, has a subsequent short act [*21 Geo. II, c.* 26] for explaining, amending, and enforcing, the same, by farther extending the penalties to the venders, and also to the milliners making up such cambrics.

Great Britain being at war with France, the province of New-England alone, assisted by the king's ships of war, was now able to raise a

sufficient land-force to take the island of Cape-Breton, which was formerly yielded to France by the treaty of Utrecht. Those forces consisted of 4070 men, exclusive of commission-officers, viz.

|                         |   |   |   |   |           |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| from Massachusset's bay | - | - | - | - | 3250 men. |
| New-Hampshire           | - | - | - | - | 304       |
| Connecticut             | - | - | - | - | 516       |

---

4070

besides the armed sloops and sailors belonging to those three colonies and to that of Rhode-island. The importance of Cape-Breton is now well understood (says Sir William Pepperell, commander of those forces, in his journal of its siege), or rather of the islands of Madame and Cape-Breton, which are so contiguous, that they are by most people supposed to be but one island, by the name of Cape-Breton. It extends from the gut of Canso or Canceffo, the eastern boundary of Nova-Scotia, east-north-east about 34 leagues, and helps to form the gulf of St. Laurence; which gulf is full of commodious bays, havens, islands, rivers; and at all seasons of the year has great plenty of cod-fish, and at particular seasons of the year has herrings, mackerel, &c. for bait: but the ice in winter renders its navigation unsafe, if not altogether impracticable, at least to make fishing voyages; though in the summer season there have been yearly fisheries carried on at Gaspay, at the entrance of Canada river, and in the little harbours from thence to Bayverte, at the islands of St. John and Magdalene, at and through the gut of Canso, and thence along the shore (to many other places therein named), and from Gaspay round the north side of the gulf at the several convenient ports on the main, quite to the straits of Belleisle, and, by an allowance to the French in the treaty of Utrecht, (which they have made the most of) in all the harbours at the northward of Newfoundland that were unemployed by the English. And though, comparatively speaking, there was but a small number of their ships that fished at Cape-Breton itself, yet the situation of that isle is such, that they could all of them at pleasure repair thither on any emergency or danger, especially those that fished in the gulf, on the main, or those at the north-west of Newfoundland, who were all within one or two days sail at most; and also those ships that laded with mud-fish on the banks: so that this island of Cape-Breton was the key and protection of their whole fishery; and for that end it was fortified and garrisoned, and valued by France equal to any other of its colonies; though the harbour of Louisbourg is not an extraordinary good one, and the island produces nothing either for food or raiment: so that the situation and conveniency of this place (being as it were the center of the whole fishery, and a cover and command to the whole gulf) was the greatest inducement to France to fortify it. What other uses it might serve for, as a port to the East and West India ships,



and to those bound to Canada, on occasion to resort to for wood and water, to clean or to repair, &c. not being so much in their view as securing and upholding the fishery. Their conviction of the growing profits of the fishery there, and the hopes of one time or other monopolizing it, made them take such indefatigable and indirect means the last war (i. e. of Queen Anne) to procure a neutrality, so far as related to the fishery, which they obtained by dint of money; and on the peace, in order to secure it to them for the future, stuck at no terms to obtain this island, which they had no sooner effected, than they immediately settled it with a new colony of fishermen only. And a fishery flourished here so fast, that they could, and did, afford to undersell us at foreign markets. And for the protection of the trade so to do, they had annual ships of war sent them from France to visit and supply them, with orders to protect and defend not only their sea-coasts, but their vessels on the banks of Newfoundland, &c.; and also to make and keep their pretensions good to the several banks, either within or without their line; and to make themselves a privilege as it were of fishing almost where they pleased, by force of custom, in which they gradually increased; so that in the year 1732 two of their men of war were ordered on that station, to cruise on the banks, to examine into the state of the fishery, and to give them any necessary assistance and protection; and to go from thence to Canada, and so back to the fishery again, and thence to convoy those ships that had made their voyages, and were ready to depart for Europe. The marquis de la Maison Forte, (continues Sir William Pepperell) in his journal, thus remarks, Louisbourg is a good port and a safe harbour. More than 100 vessels from France arrive there every year to fish, and make fish (i. e. to cure them) of the cod which they catch in small craft of the country, and are after put into larger vessels, where they salt them and dry them, from the beginning of June till October, when they all get ready to depart each for his assigned port. This island produces some grain; but though there are more than four thousand inhabitants, they find their account much better in fishing than in husbandry, and consequently the land lies waste; they procuring all necessaries in exchange for their fish.

Our author proceeds to illustrate the magnitude and profits of the fishery of the French in those seas, viz.

From the gut of Canso down along the shore to Louisbourg, and from thence to the north-east part of Cape-Breton, there were annually employed at least 500 shallops, each of which required at sea and on shore at least five men; in all

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Sixty brigs, schooners, and sloops, with each 15 men, | 2500 men. |
|   | 900 men.  |

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Total men employed, | 3400 men. |
|---------------------|-----------|

Each of the said 500 shallops catches 300 quintals of fish in the summer season; in all - - 150,000 quintals.

And each of the brigs, schooners, and floops, catches 600 quintals - - - - 36,000

Total fish annually made at Cape-Breton, 186,000 quintals.

Now, to carry this fish to Europe there must be employed 93 ships, of the burden of 2000 quintals each, and each ship has 20 failors; in all - 1860 men.

Total men employed in the fishery of Cape-Breton, 5260

At Gaspay, Quadre, and other harbours, mentioned in the following estimate, there are six ships yearly, which, as they come out from France, manned to catch their own cargoes in shallops (which they haul up, and leave in the country every winter till they return in the next spring) may, one with another, be allowed sixty hands. And it has always been allowed from St. Maloes and Granville that they have at least three hundred fail of those ships in this fishery, that fish at Petit-nord, Fichance, Belleisle, and the gulf, which (all being computed as above, and allowing those ships that so come out to make their own voyages, to carry each three thousand quintals) will be as follows, viz.

|                          | Ships.    | Men.         | Quintals. |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| At Cape-Breton, - - -    | 93 - - -  | 5260 - - -   | 186,000   |
| — Gaspay, - - -          | 6 - - -   | 360 - - -    | 18,000    |
| — Quadre, - - -          | 6 - - -   | 360 - - -    | 18,000    |
| — Porte en Basque, - - - | 6 - - -   | 360 - - -    | 18,000    |
| — Les Foils isles, - - - | 3 - - -   | 180 - - -    | 9000      |
| — St. Maloes, &c. - - -  | 300 - - - | 18,000 - - - | 900,000   |
| <hr/>                    |           |              |           |
| Total,                   | 414       | 24,520       | 1,149,000 |

There go also ships from St. Jean de Luz, Bayonne, Nantes, and Havre de Grace; and besides all these, there have been constantly from the rivers Sindie, Olune, Poiteux, Havre, &c. 150 ships at least (the French say 200 fail) employed in the mud-fishery, (or mort-vest, as they call it) from 16 to 24 men each, which carry home from 22,000 to 30,000 fish each. So, on the most moderate computation, 150 fail of ships, with 20 men each, is 3000 men; and by tale, 3,900,000 fishes in all.

In regard to the value of this branch of trade, it is necessary to observe, that it also produces a large quantity of train-oil, viz. a hoghead of 60 gallons of oil out of every hundred quintals of fish, and this out of the whole quantity will produce 11,490 hogheads of oil. And allowing that 4000 fish in number are equal to 100 quintals when cured, then the 3,900,000 mud-fish, by the same rule, will yield 975 hogheads of oil; which makes in all 12,465 hogheads of oil.

Now, let the 1,149,000 quintals of fish be valued only at 10s sterling per quintal (the prime cost usually at Newfoundland), and then it is worth

L574,500 0 0

And to this allow 3s sterling per quintal for freight in English bottoms to market,

172,350 0 0

And then the fish alone is worth

746,850 0 0

And let the 12,465 hogheads (or 3116 $\frac{1}{4}$  tons) of oil be valued at L18 sterling per ton,

56,092 10 0

As to the mud-fish, they are generally sold in France at 1000 livres for 1000 fish; and then, at 11d sterling per livre, their value is

178,750 0 0

And thus it appears that one year's fishery of the French is worth

L981,692 10 0

Which great branch of trade in a manner depends entirely on their possession of the island of Cape-Breton, as it is impossible to carry it on without some convenient harbour of strength.

In addition to this, in regard to the woollen manufacture, every man employed in this fishery consuming in his back and bed clothes the value of 30s sterling therein yearly, is L41,250 sterling. Add also thereto the canvas, cordage, hooks, lines, twine, nets, lead, nails, spikes, edge-tools, graplins, anchors, &c. which 564 ships and shallops must expend at sea and on shore; and allow all these to be British, and that Britain could keep it all to herself, and the value will be found of greater consequence than any other trade dependent on our plantations, not even excepting the tobacco trade: first, in regard to raising seamen for the navy; secondly, in the consumption of British manufactures and product; and, thirdly, and above all, in a certain annual remittance of the balance of this trade from Spain, Portugal, Italy, and other parts\*. So that, all things duly considered, this acquisition of Cape-Breton is of itself, and alone, a sufficient compensation for the war. Moreover, by this conquest, France has not any one sea-port for the relief of their trading ships, either from the East or from the West Indies, open to them anywhere in North-America to the northward of the river Mississippi; for Canada is not to be looked upon as an open port to the sea, it being impracticable to go thither for shelter, as being 60 or 70 leagues within land through the gulf to the mouth of the river, and then a great way farther up the river. And even as to Canada itself, the river is now so much under our command, as well as the gulf, that all trade, and even communication there, may be very easily stopped by our ships from

\* To all these our author might have added the great number of people of various trades employed in building and fitting out the vessels, and the advantage accruing to the landed interest from the consumption of their provisions.

Cape-Breton; inſomuch that, without force of arms, in a very few years that colony would fall, and the whole trade of furs carried on with the Indians there come into Engliſh hands. And a happier conſequence ſtill is, that hereby the French in Canada may not only be kept from ſupplying the Indians, but alſo from encouraging them to annoy our frontiers; ſo that thoſe Indians muſt become dependent on us. By this acquiſition, likewiſe, we have ſecured to the nation the garrifon of Annapolis-Royal, and the colony of Nova-Scotia; which country being a very rich and fertile ſoil, and its coaſts and rivers abounding with fiſh, and ſettled with French catholics, that nation has much regretted the loſs of, and wanted to recover. Our holding Cape-Breton will alſo keep thoſe French inhabitants of Nova-Scotia in ſtrict allegiance to his majeſty, or elſe oblige them to quit their poſſeſſions, which are all farms brought to perfection, and fit for any ſervice immediately. Had we not taken Cape-Breton this year, and the French had taken Annapolis, the conſequence then would have been, that all the inhabitants of Nova-Scotia would have declared for France immediately, and the colony would have been at once the French king's; whereby all the Cape-fable and St. John's Indians, who aſſiſted France laſt year at the ſiege of Annapolis, together with thoſe of Canada, would have been let looſe upon our frontiers.

This account of the vaſt value of Cape-Breton, written by one living in its neighbourhood, and who was knighted for the ſucceſſful part he acted in reducing it to his Britannic majeſty's obedience, is in the main juſtly to be depended on, as not being the vague and romantic report of an unſkilful writer, but the faithful narration of one who was every way equal to the taſk \*.

1746.—To balance the great loſs of the French in Cape-Breton, they next year took from our Engliſh Eaſt-India company their moſt important fort and town of Fort St. George, on the Coromandel coaſt, with the adjacent black town of Madras, being the capital of all our company's places in Eaſt-India; wherein they found no ſmall quantity of merchandize and treaſure: they alſo took one of that company's capital ſhips.

\* Notwithſtanding Mr. Anderſon's encomium on Sir William Pepperell's flattering account of his own conqueſt, it is now known that it ought to be read with at leaſt ſome grains of allowance. The richneſs of the ſoil of Nova-Scotia has been often cried up, but it has never yet been very productive. *M.*

In conſequence of the alarm raiſed in the metropolis by the progreſs of the pretender's ſon, there was a great run upon the bank in the month of September. The directors endeavoured to make their caſh hold out as long as poſſible by making their payments in ſilver, and chiefly in ſixpences; an expedient which could not have availed them

long. An infinitely more effectual, as well as more honourable, means of relief, was adminiſtered by a meeting of merchants, bankers, and traders, on the 26th day of that month. Thoſe gentlemen drew up a paper, wherein they declared their reſolution to ſupport the credit of the bank by receiving their notes in all payments, and uſing their utmoſt endeavours to pay them away to all perſons receiving payments from them. The reſolution was ſoon ſigned by above eleven hundred perſons, and had the happy effect of quieting apprehenſion, reſtoring confidence, and putting an immediate end to the run upon the bank. *M.*

On the 5th of July 1746 the king's charter passed for erecting the British linen company at Edinburgh ; whereby a number of peers and eminent gentlemen and merchants were incorporated, with a capital of £100,000 sterling, which may be farther increased from time to time, as their affairs shall require, to any limited sum, by his majesty's sign-manual. Their ordinary affairs to be conducted by a governor, deputy-governor, and five directors. Their first governor was Archibald duke of Argyle, the great promoter of this charter. One of the main intentions of this company was to supply the British merchants trading to Africa, and to the American plantations, with such kinds of linen cloth as they hitherto were obliged to purchase from foreign nations ; whereby it is to be hoped that much money will be saved to the nation, which till now has been carried abroad for those goods : a most worthy and truly public-spirited design, which there is good ground to hope will in due time fully answer expectation.

The bank agreed to deliver up to the treasury £986,800 in exchequer bills ; in lieu of which they were to have an annuity of 4 per cent for that sum, out of the fund for licencing spiritous liquors : and the bank were hereby empowered to add the said £986,800 to their capital stock, taking in subscriptions for that end. [19 Geo. II, c. 6.]

|  |   |   |   |             |
|--|---|---|---|-------------|
| Thus, at michaelmas 1746, the whole debt due to the bank from the public, was    | - | - | - | £11,686,800 |
| But the bank now hold thereof, in their corporate capacity, the undivided sum of | - | - | - | 906,800     |

which being deducted, there remained of transferable capital, divided amongst all the proprietors, only - £10,780,000

It being too common for commanders of ships, lying in rivers, ports, &c. to throw out their ballast on the shore below the full-sea mark, to the great detriment and filling up of those ports, rivers, &c. a law was passed [19 Geo. II, c. 22] prohibiting the throwing out of any filth, rubbish, gravel, &c. except on the land where the tide never flows, under the penalty of at least fifty shillings, and not exceeding five pounds for every offence. And ships or vessels sunk or stranded in any port or river, must be forthwith weighed up and removed by order of the magistrates. This act extended only to that part of Great Britain called England.

The manufacture of sail-cloth had been long improving in Great Britain, and had been encouraged by sundry acts of parliament ; particularly by those of the 9th and 13th of King George II, whereby all foreign-made sail-cloth imported, usually entered by the name of Holland's duck, or vitry canvas, fit for ships' sails, and for which duties are payable, should be stamped as such on its importation, to prevent its passing for British-made sail-cloth ; and if found unstamped, to be forfeited ; and the importer of it to forfeit £50, all which was now confirmed ;

and by the same act [19 *Geo. II, c. 27*] every vessel built in Great Britain, and in his majesty's plantations in America, must, at her first sailing, be furnished with one full and complete set of new sails, made of sail-cloth manufactured in Great Britain, under the penalty of £50 on the master of the ship or vessel. And every sail-maker in Britain or the plantations, shall, on every new sail, affix, in words at length a stamp of eight inches diameter, whereon his name and place of abode shall plainly appear, under the penalty of £10. All which particular clauses were hereby to continue in force for seven years longer.

It being found by experience, that the custom in England of making assurances, interest or no interest, or without farther proof of interest than the policy, has been productive of many pernicious practices; whereby great numbers of ships with their cargoes have either been fraudulently lost and destroyed, or taken by the enemy in time of war; and that such assurances have encouraged the exportation of wool, and the carrying on of many other prohibited trades, it was therefor now enacted, that no assurance should be ' made on any ships belonging to ' his majesty, or any of his subjects, or on any goods onboard any such ' ship, interest or no interest, nor without farther proof of interest than ' the policy, nor by any way of gaming or wagering, or without benefit ' of salvage to the assurer: and that every such assurance shall be null ' and void. Yet, 1<sup>st</sup>, assurance on private ships of war may be made ' for the owners thereof, interest or no interest: 2<sup>dly</sup>, any goods, mer- ' chandize, or effects, from any ports or places in Europe or America ' in the possession of the crowns of Spain or Portugal may be assured ' in such manner as if this act had not been made: 3<sup>dly</sup>, it shall not ' be lawful to make re-assurance, unless the insurer shall be insolvent, ' become a bankrupt, or shall die; in either of which cases, re-assurance ' may be made: 4<sup>thly</sup>, all sums to be lent on bottomry, or at respon- ' dentia, upon any British ship bound to East-India, shall be lent only ' on the ship, or on the merchandize onboard such ship, and shall be so ' expressed in the bond; and benefit of salvage shall be allowed to the ' lender, who alone shall have a right to make assurance on the money ' so lent: and none shall recover more than the value of his interest on ' the ship or on its merchandize, exclusive of the money so borrowed: ' and if it appears, that the value of his share in the ship or merchan- ' dize does not amount to the full sum so borrowed, such borrower ' shall be responsible to the lender for so much of the money borrowed ' as he hath not laid out on the ship or merchandize, with lawful inter- ' est, together with the assurance and charges, in the proportion the ' money not laid out shall bear to the whole money lent, notwithstand- ' ing the ship and merchandize may be totally lost: 5<sup>thly</sup>, in all actions ' the plaintiff shall declare within fifteen days, what sums he has assur- ' ed: 6<sup>thly</sup>, persons sued on policies of assurance are to bring the mo-



'ney into court; and the plaintiff not accepting it with costs, to be taxed, in full discharge; and shall afterwards proceed to trial in such action, and the jury shall not assess greater damages to pay costs than the money so brought into court; such plaintiff, in every such case, shall pay to such defendant, in every such action, costs to be taxed.' [19 *Geo. II, c. 37.*]

In consequence of an act of parliament of the preceding year 1745, for granting a reward of £20,000 to the discoverers of a north-west passage through Hudson's bay to the seas of Japan and China, as already related, a subscription for £10,000 was now set on foot, divided into 100 shares of £100 each, for fitting out two ships in search of that passage. Those ships wintered at Port-Nelson in Hudson's bay, and in the year following (1747) they made several attempts for a passage westward, but were obliged to return home the same year, quite disheartened and unsuccessful; as has also been another attempt since made from Philadelphia. Yet as this supposed passage was brought under the consideration of parliament in the year 1749, we shall suspend any farther observations thereon till we come to that year.

The following succinct survey is taken from voyages, and other modern accounts, published about this time, being a catalogue of all the forts, settlements, and factories, of the several European nations trading to, and in the way to, East-India, from the isle of St. Helena quite to Japan; and which may give the reader a good general idea of Europe's correspondence with East-India, viz.

Possessed by Great Britain,

The isle of St. Helena, situated in the 16th degree of south latitude, about 1200 miles west of the African coast, and 1800 miles east of South-America, being almost an entire rock, with a thin covering of vegetative earth, about 20 miles in circumference, with only one passage up to it, well fortified. It contains about 200 families, who have sufficient produce to supply our East-India ships in their way from India, (and those of other nations we are in peace with) with fresh provisions, fruits, and vegetables: but it is difficult for ships going to India to find it, because of the winds.

Bassora, or Bassora, at the upper end of the Persian gulf, at the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates. Here is a British, and also a Dutch, factory. Hither come many ships from several nations of Europe and Asia, it being a place of great commerce. This place is also commodious to the English and Dutch for conveying their letters home over land by way of Aleppo.

Gomroon, also in the Persian gulf, has both an English and Dutch factory, and subordinate inland ones at Ispahan; there being a considerable trade carried on betwixt this place and India.

To Mocha in Arabia, near the mouth of the Red sea, the British and

Dutch companies resort for its coffee, hitherto the best in the world; but they have no settled factories there.

1747.—In Cambaya (a province of India) the English company have a president and council at Surat, who have, or lately had, the supreme direction of the commerce on all the west coast of Malabar. Its subordinate factories are at Agra, Amadabat, Lahor, &c. but not always confined to such places. At Anjengo the company built a fort in the year 1695.

The island, town, and port, of Bombay on the Malabar coast is a sovereignty of our company's; of which enough has been said elsewhere. And on the same coast there are factories at Calicut, Telichery, Dabul, and Carwar, which last is famous for the best pepper in India; for which reason our company has a fort there, as well as a factory; but pepper grows in general all over India, and therefor cannot be monopolized.

On the Coromandel coast, Britain has Fort St. George, having only an open road, and the adjoining black town of Madras. It is but a week's journey from the diamond mines of Golconda, held of the mogul. To the governor and council of this place all the factories eastward, or beyond the Malabar coast, are subordinate; as,

Fort St. David, and the lesser ones of Vizagapatan, Ganjam, &c. on that coast.

In the kingdom and bay of Bengal, the English company have Fort William at Calcutta, Ballalore, Cofimbazar, Dacca, Patana, and some other subordinate factories; though their later successful conflicts with the French, in those parts, have since made considerable alterations in this part of India.

In the great island of Sumatra, our company have a fort and factory at Bencoolen; also Fort-Marlbrough, near it, and some other subordinate factories.

In the island of Borneo the English have a factory at Benjar.

By the Dutch East-India company are held the following, viz.

The extensive and constantly-improving colony of the most famous southern point of Africa, called the Cape of Good Hope, in full sovereignty, with all its forts; where the ships of all nations in amity with the states-general of the united Netherlands have liberty to stop and refresh: under it is the island of Mauritius, eastward of Madagafcar.

A factory at Bassora, before mentioned.

A factory at Surat, under which are many subordinate ones.

On the west coast of Malabar, the Dutch company have Rajapore, Barcelor, Cananor, Panane, Cranganor, Cochin (taken from the Portuguese in the year 1662, after being possessed by them 150 years, and so fortified as to be deemed impregnable: it is their principal settlement on this coast) Porcha, Carnapole, Coulan, Tegnapatan, Calecutt, &c. all taken from Portugal.

The entire coast, ports, and forts, of the island of Ceylon, in full and absolute property, and the absolute engrossment of the best cinnamon in the world.

In the island of Manaar, they have Teutecorin and Manapaar.

On the coast of Coromandel, they have Negapatan, Porto-Novo, Sadraspatan, Cabelon, Palicat, famous for cotton cloths, (their chief fort and factory of that coast, and of Pegu; it was retaken by the Dutch company in 1719 from the Portuguese, who had held it ever since the year 1613, when they drove out the Dutch with great slaughter) Cale-tour, Masulipatan, Binlipatan, &c.

In Bengal, Huguely, (the chief factory) Balasore, Cosimbazar, Malda, Barnagal, Chinchura, Patana, Dacca, &c.

In the peninsula of Malacca, the strong fort and territory of that name.

In the island of Sumatra, the Dutch company have factories at Acheen, Padang, Palimbam, Priaman, Bancalis, Siaque, &c.

In Java, they have the great and strong city of Batavia, the capital and dernier resort of all their East-India forts, settlements, and factories; with a far-extended territory adjoining: also, in the same island they have factories at Bantam, Cheraban, Tagal, Japara, Rombang, Sorobay, &c.

In the kingdom of Siam, factories at Siam, its capital, and at Ligore.

And at Aracan, in the kingdom of that name.

In the island of Celebes, they have Macassar, its capital.

In the islands of Borneo. Solor, Buro, Poleroon, Noro, Ceram, Ambay, &c. the Dutch company have forts or factories; and in the spice-islands of Amboyna, Ternate, Banda, Timor, &c. they are absolute sovereigns, possessing solely and exclusively all the cloves, nutmegs, and mace; spices nowhere else to be found upon earth, that is as yet certainly known.

In Persia, Gomroon, and under it Ispahan and Balfora.

Those of the French East-India company in India, were,

A factory at Surat.

On the coast of Coromandel, the strong fort and very populous town of Pondicherry, with some subordinate ones. Piece-goods, diamonds, and rice, being the staple merchandize, not only here, but on all this coast. It has, however, no harbour, being only an open road like Fort St. George, where they load and unload their merchandize by boats.

In Bengal, they have Balasore and Charnagar, &c.

The French island of Bourbon (formerly called Mascareen) to the eastward of the great island of Madagascar, serves principally for a refreshing place for their East-India ships; they have also, more lately, raised quantities of coffee therein, and made sundry other good improvements.

The Portuguese, as already noted, were once lords-paramount of all the trade of Europe to East-India, from whom the Dutch gradually plucked off the best feathers of their wings. What they have still left is but inconsiderable, compared with what they have lost, or with those of England and Holland, though they still retain a great sound.

On the north-east coast of Africa, beyond the Cape of Good Hope, they have Quiloa, Mombaza, Melinda, Mozambique, Magadoxa, &c. ports very useful in their voyages to and from India, originally settled by them for that end. They also get considerable quantities of gold and drugs from thence.

In Cambaya, they still retain the strong forts of Diu and Daman, often in vain besieged by great armies of the Moguls.

On the Malabar coast, Bassaim near the island of Salfet, Choul, and Bandara : Goa, on the same coast, is the capital of all their East-India settlements, now inconsiderable for its commerce, and much decayed from its antient splendour. Also the islands of Elephant, Carranjaa, Anjediva ; also Annanor, Cavarda, Mangalor, and Moor's-Fort.

On the Coromandel coast, they have St. Thomas, or Meliapour.

And, lastly, they have still Macao, an island in the mouth of Canton river in China, but tributary to, and absolutely at the mercy of, the Chinese.

The Danes have long possessed the port and fort of Tranquebar, on the Coromandel coast, and the subordinate one of Danesburg.

The Swedes have as yet no established factories in India, though they generally send one or two ships yearly thither. Neither have they at present any settlements anywhere out of their own kingdom, but in Germany.

Spain possesses the best forts of the Philippine islands, as Manilla, the capital town and port of the large island of that name, otherwise called Lucon ; to which port of Manilla the Spaniards, from Acapulco in Mexico, generally send two great ships yearly. But Spain can carry on no trade at all directly from Europe to East-India, being bound by treaty with Portugal, not to sail thither by the Cape of Good Hope, as well as by the general treaty of Westphalia in the year 1648.

The Dutch East-India company are the only Europeans who have any trade to the empire of Japan, from their great emporium of Batavia ; but they are not permitted to have any fort or factory at Japan.

Neither are any of the European nations, who trade to China, permitted to have factories there. The English company had formerly settlements on the coasts of Cochin-China and Tonquin, but now they only trade thither occasionally. It is not the design of our work to relate all the squabbles which the several European nations have had with each other in India, or with the several nations of the East (that being

largely done by voyagers long since) but merely to point out the general extent of their commerce in that remote part of the world.

After the rebellion of the years 1745 and 1746, the legislature at length wisely determined to enact, what should undoubtedly have been made an essential preliminary of the consolidating union of the two kingdoms of England and Scotland, concluded 40 years before, whereby, and not till now, the true and solid liberty of the people of Scotland was established, not only in those parts of that country called the Highlands, where clanship, or an abject submission of the bulk of the people to the sovereign will of their chieftains, had prevailed from the earliest times, but even, though in a lesser degree, in sundry parts of the low country of Scotland; that is to say, it was now legally determined to put all the people of Scotland upon the same equitable and rational footing of liberty and property with their fellow-subjects of England, by an act of parliament, for taking away and abolishing the heritable jurisdictions in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, and for making satisfaction to the proprietors thereof; and for restoring such jurisdictions to the crown; and for making more effectual provision for the administration of justice throughout that part of the united kingdom, by the king's courts and judges there, &c. The preamble sets forth, ' that for remedying the inconveniences that have arisen, and may arise, ' from the multiplicity and extent of heritable jurisdictions in that part ' of Great Britain called Scotland; for making satisfaction to the proprietors thereof; for restoring to the crown the powers of jurisdiction ' originally and properly belonging thereto, according to the constitution; and for extending the influence, benefit, and protection, of the ' king's laws and courts of justice to all his majesty's subjects in Scotland; and for rendering the union more complete; it was enacted, 1st, ' that all heritable jurisdiction of justiciary, and all regalities and heritable bailleries, and all heritable constabularies, other than the office ' of high constable of Scotland, and all stewartries, being parts only of shires or counties; and all sheriffships, and deputy-sheriffships of districts, being parts only of shires or counties in Scotland, possessed or claimed by any subject; and all jurisdictions, powers, authorities, and privileges, thereunto appurtenant, annexed, or dependent thereupon, ' shall be hereby, from lady-day 1748, abrogated, taken away, and totally dissolved and extinguished.

' Provided, that all lands annexed to the said heritable bailleries, ' stewartries, and constabularies, and the rents and duties, consisting in ' money, victual, cattle, or other goods, shall remain, and belong to, ' them, and their heirs and successors, and continue to be enjoyed by, ' and paid to, them, notwithstanding the extinction of the said offices.

' 2dly, That all the before-named jurisdictions, powers, &c. belonging to such offices, shall thenceforth be vested in, and exercised by,

‘ the court of session and court of justiciary at Edinburgh, the judges  
‘ in the several circuits, and the courts of the several sheriffs and stewarts  
‘ of shires or counties in Scotland, respectively ; and that the several  
‘ towns, villages, districts, and bounds, which were subject to such heri-  
‘ table offices and jurisdictions hereby dissolved, and the inhabitants  
‘ thereof, shall thenceforth be solely subject to the jurisdiction and au-  
‘ thority of the before-named courts, and to such other of the king’s  
‘ courts respectively, as the said inhabitants would have been subject to,  
‘ in case such hereditary jurisdictions and offices had never existed.

‘ 3dly, That from thenceforth, all such heritable jurisdictions in  
‘ Scotland, not hereby before extinguished, granted to, or possessed by,  
‘ any subject, either heritably or for life, shall be hereby resumed,  
‘ and annexed to the crown ; and that the sheriffs and stewarts shall  
‘ from thenceforth be nominated and appointed by his majesty, his  
‘ heirs, and successors.

‘ Provided, that no sheriffship or stewartry in Scotland shall at any  
‘ time hereafter be granted to any person whatsoever, either heritably  
‘ or for life, or for any certain term exceeding one year ; and, that no  
‘ justiciary, regality, constabulary, or bailliery, nor any judicature, au-  
‘ thority, &c. of the like nature shall, at any time hereafter, be erected  
‘ or granted in Scotland.

‘ 4thly, Reasonable pecuniary compensation shall be allowed to the  
‘ possessors of all such heritable jurisdictions hereby abrogated, and to  
‘ every clerk thereof ; and claims thereof shall be duly entered and ex-  
‘ amined for this end, and be laid before the parliament.

‘ Provided also, that no baron, or heritor, or proprietor of lands in  
‘ Scotland, shall henceforth, in criminal cases, exercise any jurisdiction  
‘ whatsoever, other than assaults and smaller crimes, for which the pu-  
‘ nishment shall only be a fine not exceeding 20/ sterling ; or by setting  
‘ in the stocks, for at most three hours in the day-time, or else by im-  
‘ prisonment not exceeding one month. And, in civil causes, such bar-  
‘ on, or his baillie, shall hold no plea, nor judge in any cause exceed-  
‘ ing 40/ sterling, other than for recovering from the vassals or tenants  
‘ of his lands and heritages, their rents, or the dues of their mills. Pri-  
‘ sons shall have windows or grates, open to inspection from without, so  
‘ as the prisoner may be visited and conversed with ; and none to be  
‘ imprisoned but by warrant, expressing the cause of imprisonment.

‘ Provided, however, that the jurisdiction of fairs and markets, of  
‘ coal-works, salt-works, and mines, be, as formerly, reserved to their  
‘ heritors ; but without a power of inferring the loss of life or demem-  
‘ bration. Provided also, that nothing in this act shall extend to preju-  
‘ dice the jurisdiction vested by law in any royal borough in Scotland,  
‘ or, in cumulative cases, to burghs of regality and barony.’ The rest  
of this long act relates to poindings, or seizures, to the regulations and



qualifications of sheriffs and their deputies, circuit courts, and appeals therefrom in certain civil causes, and to fines, &c. [20 *Geo. II*, c. 43.]

This excellent statute may, not unfitly, be termed a new magna charta to the free people of Scotland, who, from this time (though perhaps not merely or solely in direct consequence thereof, but also from other concurring causes) have undoubtedly most visibly increased in commerce, manufactures, wealth, and general industry, to a degree said to be almost amazing, to such as, after some year's absence, have lately visited that part of the united kingdom: so great is the influence of liberty in favour of industry and commerce.

It having been found by experience that the tenure of lands in Scotland by ward-holding, and the consequences of the same, being the casualties of ward-marriage and recognition, had been much more burdensome and prejudicial to the vassals by that tenure than beneficial to the superiors, it was abolished by the 50th statute of the same session, for taking away the tenure of ward-holding in Scotland, &c. which enacted, 'that the same be converted into blanch-holding and feu-holdings, &c. to be farther regulated, with respect to the recompense, by the court of session in Scotland,' &c. This act seems to have been all that was wanting for completing the freedom of vassals in Scotland\*.

The European ships at China this year were 8 English, 6 Dutch, 4 Swedish, and 2 Danish; in all 20. France being at war with Great Britain, there were no French ships there this year.

The planters in the English sugar colonies, in the infancy of those plantations, had cultivated considerable quantities of indigo, as being always a great merchantable commodity, whereby their mother-country was then well supplied therewith. Some authors have related, that, in the island of Jamaica, indigo was produced in such abundance, especially in the parish of Vere, that 300 coaches have been seen at that parish-church on Sundays. But a tax of  $\frac{3}{6}$  per pound weight being laid by the legislature on indigo, the planters of Jamaica dropped the cultivation thereof entirely; and though the parliament afterwards repealed that duty, yet a manufacture once lost is not easily regained, more especially in a country so expensive as Jamaica is. Yet what that people were not able or willing to effect, has at length been brought to bear by the industrious planters of Carolina, greatly to their honour, and, we hope, to their future great benefit. In succeeding times the other West-india islands found that the sugar-cane was beyond all other things the most gainful; and therefor they also gradually dropped the cultivation of indigo. Nevertheless, the French islands in the neighbourhood of ours, instead of following that example, went on with an-

\* This year the dividend of the bank of England was reduced from *five and a half* to *five* per cent per annum. [*Account inserted in the appendix to Allardyce's Address to the proprietors of the bank.*] M.

nually increasing their quantity of indigo; infomuch that (excepting what comes from East-India, and some which Spain imports from her American colonies) France, till about this time, supplied the greatest part of Europe with it from their West-India islands; and Britain and Ireland have been reckoned to pay to France about £200,000 annually for indigo. This would probably have been the case still, had not the people of Carolina made this year a successful attempt to propagate indigo in that province. The planters had by this time carried the production of rice to such a height, that, even in time of peace, its quantity had overstocked those parts of Europe to which they were wont to send it, so that they got but little by it; the case was still worse when the war with France broke out in 1743, by reason of the high freight and insurances. This put them upon trying to employ their negroes on fundry new manufactures of linen, woollen, &c. which they were before accustomed to take from Great Britain; of which their mother-country would soon have become jealous, and which, moreover, did not much turn out to their own particular advantage. Upon this occasion it was very fortunate for them, that the true indigo plant happened to be discovered growing spontaneously almost everywhere there; whereupon essays began to be made a year or two preceding this year, 1747; and the indigo answered expectation so far, that in this same year about 200,000 pounds weight of it was shipped for England, and sold very well, though not at first quite so well cured as the French indigo. This success produced a petition to parliament from the Carolina merchants in April 1748 for a small bounty on the importation of indigo from Carolina, whereby the planters might be encouraged to proceed so far, as not only to supply Great Britain and Ireland, but likewise foreign markets, with so useful a commodity; while, at the same time, petitions were encouraged from merchants, clothiers, and dyers, from all parts of England, in favour of this new production, since brought to perfection; and that as indigo is a commodity, without which a good blue colour cannot be dyed, a bounty might be allowed on its importation in somewhat near the terms of the Carolina merchants' petition. Thereupon an act passed [21 *Geo. II*, c. 30] for allowing 6*d* per pound weight on all indigo raised in any of the British American colonies, and imported into Great Britain directly from the place of its growth; which has since then had a very good and successful effect.

1748.—In the beginning of 1748 an attempt was made in parliament, and a bill brought into the house of commons, for the revival of the statute [7 *Anne*, c. 5] in behalf of a general naturalization: but it was thrown out by a great majority. The substance of the reasons for rejecting it was, that we had poor protestants of our own, even more than we could well provide for; and as a moderate expense would en-

able any foreign protestants, who shall have brought any substance with them sufficient, to obtain an act of parliament for that end, such only were worth our while to be received and settled with us. This was again brought into parliament in April 1751, but was then also rejected. On the other hand, let us, on this occasion, see what Lord Moleworth, a very able nobleman, has said on that subject, (*in the preface to his English translation of Hottoman's Franco-Gallia*, p. 23, ed. 1721.)

‘ What should hinder us from an act of general naturalization ? especially when we consider that no private acts of that kind are refused. But the expense is so great that few attempt to procure them, and the benefit which the public receives thereby is therefor so inconsiderable. Experience has shewn us the folly and falsity of those plausible insinuations, that such a naturalization would take the bread out of Englishmen’s mouths. We are convinced that the greater number of workmen of one trade there is in any town, the more does that town thrive ; and the greater will be the demand for the manufacture, the vent to foreign parts, and the quicker circulation of the coin. The consumption of the produce, both of land and industry, increases visibly in towns full of people ; nay, the more shall every industrious person thrive in such a place ; though indeed drones and idlers will not find their account, who would fain support their superfluous expenses at their neighbours’ cost, who make one or two days labour provide for four days extravagance. And this is the common calamity of most of our corporation-towns, whose inhabitants do all they can to discourage plenty, industry, and population ; and will not admit of strangers but upon too hard terms, through the false notion that they themselves, their children, and apprentices, have the only right to squander their town’s revenue, and to get, at their own rates, all that is to be gotten within their precincts. And therefor such towns are, at best, at a stand, very few in a thriving condition, and these are where their bye laws are least restrictive : but most throughout England fall to visible decay, whilst new villages, not incorporated, or towns more liberal of their privileges, grow up in their stead, till in process of time the first sort will become almost as desolate as Old Sarum in Wiltshire, and will as well deserve to lose their right of sending representatives to parliament. For certainly a waste or a desert has no right to be represented, nor by our original constitution was ever intended so to be.’

His lordship had immediately before said, ‘ that it is a truth which few will make a doubt of, that we are not one third part peopled, though better so in proportion than any other part of Europe, Holland excepted ; and that our stock of men decreases daily, through our wars, plantations, and sea-voyages.’

This year the populace in Holland compelled their rulers to abolish the old excise-duty, amounting to ten millions of guilders for that single province; whereby we have learned, in some degree at least, the proportion of the wealth which the several other places of that most populous province bear to its mighty metropolis, viz.

|  | Gilders.  |
|--|-----------|
| Amsterdam paid annually                        | 3,802,720 |
| Rotterdam (about one fourth part of Amsterdam) | 997,950   |
| Harlem (above one fifth)                       | 801,200   |
| Leyden (above one fifth)                       | 783,130   |
| Dort (almost one seventh)                      | 511,960   |
| Gouda (almost one eighth)                      | 459,500   |
| Alkmaer  | 267,100   |
| Briel  | 232,290   |
| Delft, Schiedam, and the Hague,                | 1,492,860 |
| Hoorn  | 153,240   |
| Gornichem                                      | 141,760   |
| Enchuyfen                                      | 105,060   |
| Monickendam                                    | 68,420    |
| Purmerend                                      | 61,260    |
| Medenblick                                     | 45,460    |
| The islands on the coast of Holland            | 42,740    |
| Edam   | 33,350    |

Total, 10,000,000

While the new subsidy of five per cent on imported commodities was in debate, the sugar-planters and West-India merchants, greatly alarmed thereat, published sundry essays, tending to shew the ruin, or at least the great detriment, which that duty (which however took place) would bring on the sugar colonies. From those essays, as well as from the custom-house accounts, then laid before the parliament, we may gather the true state of the British sugar trade compared with that of France, taking the year 1742 for the rule; probably, because we were in that year at peace with France, though at war with Spain, viz.

Sugars produced in the French West-India islands in 1742, viz.

|  | Cwt.    |
|--|---------|
| In Martinico, Guadaloupe, and the other lesser islands | 622,500 |
| In Hispaniola (or St. Domingo)                         | 848,000 |

Total, 1,470,500

Being about the quantity of 122,500 hogsheds of 12 hundred weight each.

Sugars produced in the British West-India isles in 1742.

|  | Hogsheads. |              |              |
|--|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Imported into Great Britain  | -          | 60,950       |              |
| Shipped from our islands to the northern colonies, and to foreign markets                              | -          | 5,000        |              |
|  |            | <hr/>        |              |
| Total hogsheads  | 65,950     | or           | 791,400 cwt. |
| Of which 60,950 hogsheads there are exported from Great Britain to Ireland, and to all foreign markets | -          | 5,236        |              |
| Consumed in Great Britain  | -          | <hr/> 55,714 |              |

Hogsheads (at about L25 per hoghead) 60,950 or about 731,400 cwt.  
Total produced in that year more by the French than by the English - - - 679,100 cwt.

This sadly shewed the almost incredible improvements, which France had made in her sugar islands in about forty years, whereby they were at this time enabled to undersell us in most places of Europe. Though, we trust, the time is since at length come, or at hand, that we shall regain our former great exportation of sugars and other West-India commodities to foreign parts.

Those essays however admit, that in times of profound peace, both with France and Spain, our sugar islands may produce 75,000 hogsheads of sugar annually, 12 hundred-weight each hoghead. Of which 70,000 may be annually imported into Great Britain; which, at L15 per hoghead, comes to - - - L1,050,000

And 5000 hogsheads sent directly from those islands to North-America and to foreign markets, at L10 each; with 50,000 hogsheads of rum and melasses, at L6 on an average per hoghead - - - 350,000

Total value in sterling money, L1,400,000

The tendency of these reasonings was to demonstrate, that the high price of our sugars was not owing to our planters extravagant profits, but merely to the small quantities produced in some years. They also admitted, that since France has so vastly improved her colonies, there is more sugar made in all America (including the Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, and Danish colonies) in some favourable years, than all Europe can consume; which was particularly the reason of the low price of sugars between the years 1728 and 1735. Now, say these essays, if the value of the coffee, pimento, logwood, and mahogany, from Jamaica, and of the ginger, cotton, and drugs, from that and other British sugar islands, be added to the foregoing account, the importations from those islands may probably amount to L1,500,000 yearly.

There were also, while the bill for that duty was depending in parliament, sundry accounts published by the tobacco merchants for preventing that commodity being included therein. And it appeared upon a medium of three years, (1744—46) in the custom-house books, that there was imported into England alone (omitting the odd hundred thousands) forty millions of pounds weight of tobacco from our American plantations. And by the like medium there was exported thirty-three millions: so that England annually consumed seven millions of pounds weight of tobacco.

And if England alone were to pay the duty of  $4\frac{3}{4}d$  per pound on the said forty millions of pounds, it would amount in sterling money to

L791,666 13 4

But as thirty-three millions of pounds are annually exported, and the whole duty thereof drawn back, the duty is to be deducted

653,125 0 0

So the net duty of the seven millions consumed in England is

138,541 13 4

Now, valuing the thirty-three millions of pounds of tobacco at  $6d$  per pound weight, that will be

825,000 0 0

And if Scotland may be allowed to export annually seven millions of pounds, that, at  $6d$  per pound, likewise comes to

175,000 0 0

There will then be annually exported from Great Britain forty millions of pounds, which, at  $6d$  per pound, comes to

1,000,000 0 0

This sum may be deemed to be all clear gain to the nation, over and above this trade giving employment to about 25,000 tons of British shipping. Some of the printed accounts published on this particular occasion, for influencing the legislature in favour of our tobacco colonies, (and which therefor are to be read with some caution, like all others published for such particular ends) make our annual importation of tobacco into Great Britain to be, one year with another, about 80,000 hogsheads, weighing 900 pound weight each, or 72 millions of pounds. And they generally supposed one fourth part thereof, or 18 millions, to be consumed at home; and that the remaining 54 millions were annually re-exported for foreign consumption.

Others stated our total annual importation of tobacco at but 62,000 hogsheads, or 55,800,000 pounds; and that England alone consumes 12,000 hogsheads thereof, which, if all paid the duty of  $4\frac{3}{4}d$  per lb. would yield L213,750 to the crown. But, as considerable quantities are smuggled inwards for home-consumption, the whole duty may not be



above £150,000, and according to others of those papers, but £130,000. Whereas, say they, if the whole for home-consumption paid the duty, it would yield much more : which shews the great loss to the revenue, only in this one single article, by smuggling.

In April this year application was made to parliament by the expiring royal African company, for committing the management of their forts and factories, for the preservation whereof the commons did not seem inclined to trust that company any more with money, to a new company, with a suitable joint stock : which company they proposed should have ' the licencing and regulating the whole business of pawn-brokers, for preventing their buying or lending money on stolen goods, and for reducing their exorbitant rates of 50, 40, and 30, per cent per annum, for interest or premium, to 20 per cent at farthest.' Which scheme was to lay the foundation of their proposed joint stock.

At the same time the creditors of the royal African company petitioned the house of commons for having their claim paid out of the supposed value of that company's forts on that coast, now valued at £150,000, and proposed to be paid by the new company to the old one. This plausible project had two different views, viz. hereby the old company would be enabled to pay all their debts, the greatest part whereof was due to themselves (i. e. to the directors and their friends) and would, over and above, have probably a dividend to make on their then merely nominal capital, on its dissolution.

2dly, That the proposed new company should spring up out of the ruins of the old one and their creditors, with a few others of their friends, and would, doubtless, have made a good interest on the money they should advance for the above purposes, out of the scheme for the regulation of pawn-brokers. In support of this plausible scheme, the old company and their creditors insisted, that £150,000 was a very moderate valuation of their forts on the African shores ; not only considering their very great usefulness against the treachery and insults of the natives, but likewise for defence against the frequent encroachments of other European competitors with large joint stocks. That so far is the objection so often made from being just, viz. that if all our forts in Africa were to be demolished, excepting Cape-Coast-Castle, and James-Fort in the river Gambia, those two forts, together with two or three ships of war always cruising thereabout, would be sufficient to protect the trade of the whole coast ; that there is actually need of more forts than we now have, particularly at Anamaboe and Sierra Leoné, and also higher up on the river Gambia, where the French are striving to supplant us. It is admitted, that ships of war, jointly with all the forts, are needful ; but, without our forts, that would by no means answer our purpose on so uncivilized a coast ; where, for that reason, a joint-stock company is much better calculated for protecting the commerce

than any number of private persons can be. Also, that those forts are very useful for our negro trade, without which our American plantations could not be supported, more especially as the best negroes are purchased on those coasts where the company's forts and settlements are: from which coasts also we import gold, ivory, bees'-wax, beaver, and many other valuable commodities, in exchange for British manufactures and our own East-India merchandize. Lastly, without such forts and settlements, it would be not only extremely difficult to protect, and, in cases of distress, to relieve, our ships trading on that coast, but also to secure the inland trade thereof. Notwithstanding all which, at least specious, proposals, the African company's papers remained on the table to the end of that session of parliament: so difficult did our legislators find it at this time effectually to settle that trade.

All parties being weary of war, a peace was concluded at Aix-la-Chapelle, whereby all that had been conquered by France in the Austrian and Dutch Netherlands was restored to their respective sovereigns. Moreover, between Great Britain and France it was stipulated mutually to restore whatever forts or territories had during this war been taken on either side: whereby Fort St. George in India was restored to our East-India company; as, on the other hand, the island of Cape-Breton, and its town and fortress of Louisburg, were restored to France.

Spain indeed acceded to the general peace, but without any particular stipulations in point of commerce with Great Britain. What related to the South-sea company's commerce, on one hand, and the depredations of the Spanish guarda-costas, on the other, being referred to the disagreeable and tedious way of negotiating, by Sir Benjamin Keene, at Madrid. In the meantime, it was plain, that the court of Spain never intended to permit another annual South-sea ship to trade to their West-Indies, there being but about four years to run of the term of that contract, (viz. forty years from 1713 to 1753) the several interruptions of the trade being deducted or allowed for. And while this suspension continued, many things passed in conversation, and sundry essays were published for and against that manner of trading. In favour of it, it was said, that the great annual ship usually conveyed about £250,000 value in manufactures from hence to the Spanish West-Indies, for the company's account; and that in each of those great ships there went about £50,000 more in private trade: upon which trade, it was alleged, a profit of near cent per cent was made: that therefor the gain to the nation was greater this way than in the old channel of our trade by the way of Cadiz, even though the Jamaica smuggling trade were included therein: and that, though the South-sea company might not be so great gainers, yet their factors, agents, &c. brought home great fortunes, frequently in a very short space of time; and our annual ship's

cargoes kept the French, Dutch, &c. from supplying the Spanish West-Indies, to our great emolument.

On the other hand, it was asserted, and very generally believed, that the South-sea annual ship had occasioned a vast decrease of our annual exports to Spain, some said even so much as to one half of former exports; whilst, at the same time, our imports from Spain have been gradually increasing: that the superiority of our arms forced the assiento contract on Spain against their inclinations, and on that score the Spanish court and traders have discouraged our manufactures formerly sent to Cadiz, and encouraged those of France, Flanders, and Holland: that of the cargoes of our annual ship itself, a great deal consisted of the merchandize of foreign nations, and particularly of those of France and Holland, for assortments for the Spanish markets in America: that the assiento contract had enhanced the price of negroes for our own colonies: that our supplying the Spanish West-Indies so regularly with negroes had encouraged them to raise greater quantities of sugar and tobacco, to the detriment of our own: that the Spanish court having always effects of the South-sea company's in their American ports, had it constantly in their power to make seizures of those effects on various, and often unjust, pretences. Thus, in the year 1718 the company's loss hereby was computed at about £225,000 sterling; and in 1727, at about half as much more; besides the seizure by the war now concluded, and not yet justly computed; and the many other violences of the Spanish American governors and agents. Finally, as the company had undoubtedly, upon the whole, been losers by their trade, and as they had only four years more of their assiento term remaining, which Spain was determined not to renew, at least on any promising terms; for these reasons it was concluded by the British court, to instruct the minister at Madrid to obtain the best equivalent that could be procured for the remaining short term of the company's assiento contract: the result of which shall be shewn in its place.

By a statute of the 21st year of King George II, the fund of the orphans of the city of London was farther prolonged and secured, by continuing the 6d per chaldron, or ton, on coals and culm, which was to expire at michaelmas 1750 by the 5th and 6th of William and Mary, for thirty-five years longer, for the following purposes, viz. 1st, for raising £3000 yearly to the mercers company, for payment of their annuities and debts; and, 2dly, the residue thereof for making part of the orphans fund, for the benefit of which also all the city manors, lands, &c. shall stand charged with the yearly sum of £2000, over and above the £8000 applied by former laws. And, as the fund for raising the 4 per cent interest on the orphans capital stock has produced a very large surplus, including £21,735:17:9 due at midsummer 1748, to make good the yearly sum of £2000, which by a former act ought to

have been raised on the personal estates of the citizens, this surplus shall be applied to pay off the principal sum of the orphans debt. No orphan under age shall be paid off, so long as there shall be others not orphans, or not under age, to be paid off. The chamberlain of London shall yearly, at michaelmas, lay before both houses of parliament an account of the surplus arisen on the said fund, what has been paid off the principal, and what shall remain thereof unpaid off.

By a scheme, published in 1755, for building a new bridge over the Thames from Blackfriars, the above surplus, on an average of five years to midsummer 1755, amounted to £4444 per annum, upon which the proposer was for raising annuities for lives, which with £20,000 more to be raised by voluntary subscription, he says, would raise a sum sufficient to build such a bridge. He also says, that the whole orphans debt amounted at midsummer 1755 to £687,234 : 6 : 10.

1749.—We have seen that several statutes have been made at different times to encourage the subjects of Great Britain to carry on and improve the whale fishery : and as the enlargement thereof would be of very great advantage to our trade and navigation, an act of parliament passed, whereby the several acts of parliament in favour of that fishery were now farther continued : and, over and above the allowance of 20s per ton enacted by the 6th, and continued by the 13th, of King George II, a farther bounty or allowance was hereby granted of 20s more per ton. Moreover, for the encouragement of the British colonies in America in this fishery, and to promote the building of large ships there, it was hereby farther enacted, that every ship built or fitted out in any of those colonies, being 200 tons and upwards, and not more than two years old from the first building thereof, setting out from any port of the British American dominions on the whale fishery, manned and navigated according to the navigation acts, and properly fitted and furnished for that fishery, shall likewise be entitled to the said joint bounty of 40s per ton, on her arrival from the whale fishery in some port of Great Britain, on certain farther conditions therein stipulated. Foreign protestants who shall serve three years onboard British whale-fishery ships, and shall take the usual qualification oaths, shall be deemed natural-born subjects of Great Britain to all intents and purposes, as far as other foreign protestants can so be ; provided they shall have received the sacrament of the Lord's supper in some British protestant or reformed congregation, within three months before taking the state-oaths, and shall produce certificates thereof signed by the minister and two other witnesses. Yet such naturalized foreigner shall lose his naturalization upon his being more than twelve months out of Great Britain or Ireland, or his majesty's plantations in America. [22 Geo. II, c. 45.]

While Sir Benjamin Keene, the British minister, was treating with the

court of Madrid upon the commercial difference between the two nations, our London merchants who traded to Cadiz handed about a manuscript paper, tending to prove, that the trade by the South-sea company's annual ship directly to the Spanish West-Indies was not so beneficial to the British nation in general, as the former method of sending goods directly to Cadiz, and thence with the register-ships to the Spanish West-Indies.

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| That paper supposes the whole outset, ship and all, of a ship of 600 tons, with her cargo, from Cadiz to La Vera Cruz, to amount to | Dollars.<br>346,903 |
|---|---------------------|

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| And the net returns from La Vera Cruz, deducting commission, indultos, &c. to be | 717,134 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Deduct the outset  | 346,903               |

|                              |                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| And there remains the profit | 370,231 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|

Being near 107 per cent. But, if insurances be deducted for those who would not run the risk of the sea, and which in time of peace would not exceed 12 per cent, then the remaining profit would be 95 per cent. But the chief advantage in this affair is supposed to arise from having both the ship and the king's licence one's own. For, says this author, besides the considerable freights which such ships make, there are very great profits made by the privileged goods embarked thereon.

Next, we have the particular assortments of such a cargo, with the several countries they are had from, viz.

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Purchased chiefly at Cadiz, though not all Spanish merchandize, iron, wrought and unwrought, steel, wax, (which must be whitened at Cadiz) Genoa paper, Brabant linen, Dutch knives, wines, brandy, and sundry ordinary stowage-goods, amounting in all to | Dollars.<br>46,300 |
|--|--------------------|

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| British manufactures, viz. long-ells of various colours, says, shalloons, hair and worsted camblets, bays, Spanish cloths, worsted stockings, hats, and hardware; in all | 115,500 |
|--|---------|

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| From Flanders, 'stamins, coarse says, burnos, lamparillas, Brabant linen bleached, and Tournay ditto unbleached | 15,800 |
|---|--------|

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| From France; Britannias broad and narrow, Rouen linen bleached; Dowlas, Morlaix linen, cambrics and lawns, amounting to | 49,350 |
|---|--------|

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| From Germany; Silesia and Hamburgh linens, lawns, and sundry other sorts of linen, thread, calimancoes, &c. | 22,200 |
|---|--------|

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| From Spain, viz. Genoa women's stockings, Spanish double taffety of various colours, and Spanish velvets | 21,000 |
|--|--------|

|                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Total amount of the cargo in dollars | 270,150 |
|--------------------------------------|---------|

In this assortment of goods for the Spanish West-Indies the British manufactures make up one third of the whole, which must go by the way of Cadiz, in case the *asiento* of the South-sea company be laid aside; and by its being so laid aside, the value of all English goods sent from Cadiz to the Spanish West-Indies, will be increased to at least three millions of dollars (or above £675,000 sterling) yearly: and supposing, in time of peace, nine millions value in goods to be annually sent from Cadiz to the Spanish West-Indies, exclusive of British manufactures, few of which (according to this author) were sent that way whilst the *asiento* was in exercise, and thereto be added the said three millions in value of British manufactures, then the dispatches yearly from Cadiz to the Spanish West-Indies will be twelve millions of dollars. Now, continues this author, allowing that the British merchants should (as easily they may) be one third concerned in the said trade, which, on a moderate computation, renders at least 50 per cent profit, or two millions of dollars more gained to our nation; this he thinks (from his own premises, which however seem considerably exaggerated) will be found to exceed any advantage that has, or ever can, proceed from the *asiento*, by which it is notorious that the South-sea company have lost very considerably. He therefor concludes, that the commercial interest of Great Britain will be much benefited by the extinction of the *asiento*: and, with respect to our political interest, while the *asiento* subsists, it will prove a continual bone of contention between two nations, whose mutual interests are, more than any other two nations in Europe, to be closely united.

The government of Great Britain began now seriously to consider the great importance of the country and ports of Nova-Scotia, which Captain Thomas Coram, in the year 1735, by a judicious memorial and petition to the privy-council, had represented to be in a most naked and unsettled condition, whereby the French had full leisure to make the most shameful and barefaced encroachments on that province. It was now at length begun to be considered as the very key of North-America. Upon the conclusion of the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, therefor, they sent out a large colony to a place having a fine harbour, where they settled and built a town, which they named Halifax, from the title of the noble lord who then presided so worthily at the board of trade and plantations. The excellence of this province was now at length viewed in three different and advantageous lights, viz. 1st, for its happy situation, as capable of always annoying and intercepting our enemies, and as a barrier for New-England; 2dly, for the great fishery of its adjacent seas; and, 3dly, for its infinite quantities of timber for the use of the royal navy, besides sundry new productions which may probably be hereafter raised therein.

Upon an allegation in certain pamphlets, &c. touching a north-west



passage to the sea of Japan, that the Hudson's-bay company had not hitherto encouraged any attempts for finding such a passage, and that a more extensive and beneficial trade might be carried on to the countries about Hudson's bay if the trade were laid quite open; the house of commons appointed a committee to inquire into those allegations, while petitions from Bristol, Liverpool, &c. were sent up, for laying that trade open. Nevertheless, upon a full inquiry and examination of witnesses who had lived at Hudson's bay, their report gave very little reason to hope for any great increase of commerce there, the country being very inhospitable on the sea-coasts; yet it appeared that the inland countries to the south and west of that bay abound with fine woods, wild-fowl, wild beasts, river-fish, &c. and that corn and pulse would grow thereon, were plantations made. That, however, considering the company's capital, &c. it did not appear, that they had not, in the main, done as well as could be expected for promoting the commerce there: that moreover it seemed very doubtful, whether, if the trade were laid quite open, it might not be gradually lost from us to the French of Canada. Neither did the committee's report give any great hope of a safe passage likely to be discovered in any practicable latitude. One Mr. Robson, indeed, who had been surveyor to the company, and who seemed now a disgusted evidence against them, tells us, that the company's four small factories contained only 130 servants, and two small houses with only eight men in each: that their annual exports were about £4000 in value; having, in time of peace, three ships each of 150 to 200 tons burden, with two or three small sloops stationed in the bay: that there are incontestable evidences of rich copper and lead mines, yet the company give no encouragement for working them, nor for their servants going into the inland countries: that the probability of a passage is farther strengthened from the late discovery of bays, inlets, and broken lands, the western ends of which are not yet discovered, there having been no rivers as yet observed on the north-west coast: that the true reason of the company not acting for the general benefit of the nation is, because they have had no legal (i. e. parliamentary) right to their exclusive trade since the year 1698, at which time the act of parliament expired, which confirmed their charter for seven years. If therefor, says Mr. Robson, at this period, the least evidence had been suffered to transpire, that the climate is very habitable, the soil rich and fruitful, fit for corn and cattle, rich in mines, and the fisheries capable of great improvement, and that the trade may even be extended by means of a naval passage, or at least by a short land passage, to the Western ocean, had proper experiments been made thereof at that time; the legislature would have taken the right into their own hands, and would have settled the country, and laid the trade open for the benefit of Britain: the company therefor have contented themselves with dividing among

only about 100 persons a large profit upon a small capital; and have not only endeavoured to keep the true state of the trade and country an impenetrable secret, but have also industriously propagated the worst impressions of them. He therefor proposed, that for preventing those vast territories from falling into the hands of the French of Canada, the legislature should purchase the company's right to such lands as they have a legal title to, and lay the trade open, settle the rivers and adjoining coast with European protestants, and civilize the natives.

We have handled this subject so often and so fully, as to have quite exhausted it; and we shall therefor leave it to the judgment of the public, after observing, that the company's opponents have, at different times, advanced fundry things in favour of the probability of a passage, and also in behalf of the goodness of the lands and climate, which seem too much exaggerated; and in this uncertain state the subject may possibly remain to the end of time.

An act of parliament, for reducing the several annuities then bearing 4 per cent to the several rates of interest therein mentioned, laid the foundation of an addition to the sinking fund, which in a short time amounted to near L600,000 a-year, saved from the interest of the following capitals, viz.

|   |   |            |   |    |
|---|---|------------|---|----|
| The principal sum payable at the exchequer, of                          | L | 312,000    | 0 | 0  |
| Capital bank stock, - - -   |   | 8,486,800  | 0 | 0  |
| Certain annuities transferable at the bank, -                           |   | 18,402,472 | 0 | 10 |
| Capital stock of the East-India company, -                              |   | 3,200,000  | 0 | 0  |
| Capital South-sea stock, and old and new South-sea annuity stock, - - - |   | 27,302,203 | 5 | 6½ |

Total, - L57,703,475 6 4½

And it being the united opinion of the king and parliament, that nothing can so effectually contribute to make trade flourish, as lessening the public debts and incumbrances, consistent with justice and public faith; it was therefor enacted, that all the proprietors of the public debts incurred before michaelmas 1749, who should, on or before the 28th of February 1749-50, consent to accept an interest of 3 per cent per annum, to commence from the 25th of December 1757, should, in lieu of their present interest, receive 4 per cent per annum, until the 25th of December 1750, and from thence L3: 10 per cent until the 25th of December 1757; and no part of the same (except what is due to the East-India company) should be liable to be redeemed until the said 25th of December 1757.

This is what was called the first subscription, because (as we shall see) all the proprietors of the above debts did not come into this proposed subscription within the time limited by this act, although the major part of them did.

And though the second subscription to that reduction was not enacted till the spring of the year 1750, yet, for connection's sake, we shall here give the substance of an act of this same session, for giving further time to such of the proprietors of the annuities to subscribe the same upon the terms therein mentioned, and for redeeming (i. e. paying off the principal sums of) such of the said annuities as shall not be so subscribed: and for empowering the East-India company to raise certain sums by transferable annuities.

It recites, that great part of those annuities had been subscribed on the terms of the former statute: it was therefor hereby enacted, that the stock of such proprietors as have not so subscribed, and who should, on or before the 30th of May 1750, accept an interest of 3 per cent, to commence from the 25th of December 1755, should not be redeemable till the 25th of December 1755; and such as should not subscribe on or before that day, should be paid off. Thus the second subscribers had a reduction of their interest from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 per cent, two years sooner than those of the first subscription; and such as determined not to subscribe at all, who however were not very many, were paid off their principal sums out of the sinking fund. Lastly, the East-India company were empowered, by consent of the commissioners of the treasury (if they subscribed their L3,200,000 stock, and their one million annuities, by the 30th of May 1750) to borrow any sums, not exceeding L4,200,000, by sale of annuities, viz. L3,200,000 after the several rates of interest in the terms of this second subscription, and one million more at the rate of 3 per cent per annum; with which the East-India company accordingly complied.

For promoting the silk manufacture of Great Britain, the duties on raw silk, imported from China by the East-India company, were now reduced by act of parliament to the same duty payable on raw silk from Italy.

Parliament now enacted, that, as it would greatly tend to the increase and improvement of the silk manufactures of this kingdom to encourage the growth of raw silk in his majesty's dominions in America, properly certified to be really raw silk of the said growth and culture, the same might be imported duty free into the port of London, in ships navigated and manned as by the navigation acts. And as its culture has since visibly, though very gradually, increased there, and more particularly in Carolina and Georgia, it seems now probable, that in a reasonable space of time those two provinces may hereafter have the new honour of being denominated silk colonies, if they will steadily proceed in the culture of that profitable article.

From Koningsberg, the capital of the kingdom of Prussia, by the common news of the 4th of January 1749-50, we learned, that the commerce of that port had been more considerable during the year 1749

than in any of the preceding ones, viz. that 671 ships had arrived there from the North, England, and Holland, with all kinds of merchandize; and a great quantity of wines, brandies, &c. from France, Spain, the Rhine, and the Moselle: on the other hand, 682 ships had, within the same year, failed from thence, laden with corn, hemp, hides, boards, masts, &c.

The eminent author of a pamphlet, entitled, *Farther considerations upon a reduction of the land-tax*, [p. 34] gives a remarkable account of the increase of the tonnage of the British navy, in three different periods, viz.

In the year 1715 it was            -            -            167,596 tons.

In the year 1727 it was            -            -            170,862

And in 1749 it was increased to            -            228,215

An act of parliament (of this same year) for enlarging and maintaining the harbour of Ramsgate, &c. gave great hopes that our mercantile shipping would find a much safer retreat, in case of storms, &c. than any they have hitherto enjoyed on the coasts of Kent and Suffex. Its preamble sets forth, 'that frequent losses of the lives and properties of his majesty's subjects happen in the Downs for want of a harbour between the north and south Forelands; the greatest part of the ships employed in the trade of this nation being under a necessity, at going out upon, as well as in returning from, their voyages, to pass through the Downs, and frequently by contrary winds being detained there a long time, during which they (especially the outward-bound ships) are exposed to violent storms, and dangerous gales of wind, without having any sufficient harbour to lie in or retreat into, or from whence they can receive any assistance: and as a harbour may be made at Ramsgate, convenient for the reception of ships of 300 tons burden; and from whence larger ships in distress in the Downs may be supplied with pilots, anchors, cables, and other assistance and necessaries; and by the smaller ships taking shelter in this harbour, the larger ships may take the anchorage which at present is occupied by the smaller, and by that means their anchors will be fixed in more holding ground, and the ships not be so exposed to the Ocean.' A great number, therefore, of honourable and eminent persons are hereby appointed trustees for improving the harbour of Ramsgate, and a duty of sixpence per ton on all mercantile shipping was hereby laid for this end; and two very fine piers have been run out a good way into the sea, at the prodigious expense of near £50,000 sterling, which, however, in the opinion of many, supposed to be competent judges, has not hitherto answered expectation; yet as the vast scheme of this new harbour is not yet completed, it seems but reasonable for us to suspend, till then, our absolute determination hereof.

Dr. Busching, in his *New geography of Russia*, gives us the amount

of the value of the exports of Peterburgh to all the world in the year 1749, being 3,184,322 rubles; and of the imports 2,942,242; whereby Russia, or rather Petersburgh, had a balance in its favour of 242,080 only: but with respect to Great Britain alone, it stood thus, viz.

|                                   |   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Exports thither from Petersburgh, | - | 2,245,573 rubles. |
| Imports from Great Britain,       | - | 1,012,209         |

Balance against Great Britain, and in favour

of Russia, was - - - 1,233,264

Or, at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  sterling per ruble, L256,950 : 16 : 8 sterling.

Hereby, if that author was rightly informed, it appears, that Russia's commerce with Britain was not only more gainful to the former than all the rest of Europe, but that Russia was this year a loser by all the rest of Europe, of no less than 991,284 rubles, being the difference between what they gained from Britain alone and the 242,080 gained from all Europe, Britain included. We hereby learn, how much it is Russia's interest to cultivate the friendship of Great Britain; and we may add, how much it is the interest of the later to lessen the balance as soon as possible, as well as that with the other northern countries; of which we wish we had an equally distinct and adequate account.

1750.—At the opening of the session of the British parliament at the close of the year 1749, the king in his speech having recommended to their consideration the improvement of the fishery, the house of commons thereupon appointed a committee to inquire into the state, and to consider of means for improving the fishery of herring, cod, &c. And a meeting being held in the city, of many eminent gentlemen and merchants, in the beginning of the year 1750 (new stile), it was proposed to form a joint stock of L500,000, provided the legislature would grant an encouragement of 4 per cent per annum on that capital, when employed in the following manner, viz.

I) Upon the payment of L300,000 thereof into the bank of England, the interest thereon should commence, but should not be payable until L100,000 thereof should be actually employed in the fishery.

II) Upon the payment of the remaining L200,000 into the bank, the interest thereon should commence in like manner, but should not be payable until another L100,000 should be farther employed in the fishery. On this occasion, sundry pamphlets and newspapers attempted to demonstrate the practicability of Great Britain gaining from the Dutch the bulk of the white-herring fishery. Hereupon an act of parliament passed in the same session for the encouragement of the white herring fishery; the preamble whereof sets forth, that the carrying on and improvement thereof are of great importance to these kingdoms, tending to great advantage to our trade and navigation, and for employing, and providing for, great numbers of industrious poor; provided the same

be carried on with a sufficient stock, under proper regulations; and reasonable encouragement be given to such persons as are willing to carry on the said fisheries. For the encouragement thereof of such persons, and for the better regulation of the trade, and for preventing frauds and impositions in the management thereof, it was enacted, that the king by letters patent, may incorporate a number of gentlemen, herein named, and all others who shall be entitled to any share in the capital sum of £500,000, to be one body politic and corporate, by the name of the Society of the free British fishery, for the term of 21 years; during which time they are every three years to elect a governor, president, vice-president, council, and other officers, who may make bye laws for the management of the trade; may direct what seals or marks shall be put on the barrels or casks of their fish, for the counterfeiting whereof a penalty of £500 shall be incurred for each offence. This corporation may make calls on their members; the first and second payments to be each 10 per cent of their subscriptions, and the subsequent payments to be by the direction of a general court of the society. In failure of answering such calls, the society may dispose, after thirty days previous notice in the London gazette, of so much of the stock of such defaulter as shall produce the sum so called in. Three per cent per annum, upon every £100 actually employed in the said fishery, shall be paid to the proprietors of the said stock for fourteen years to come, by the receiver-general of the customs, half yearly. The society shall employ £100,000 at least, within eighteen months after the date of such subscription; and accounts of the monies which shall be so employed shall be annually laid before the parliament. And if loss shall arise by any year's adventure, and there should be gain by succeeding years, the gain shall be employed to make good the vessels and fishing stock to the full value of the said original sum of £100,000 before any dividend shall be made. A bounty of thirty shillings per ton shall be annually paid out of the customs, for fourteen years to come, to the owners of all decked vessels from twenty to eighty tons burden, which shall be built after the commencement of this act, for the use of, and fitted out and employed in, the said fisheries, whether by this society, or any other persons; such vessel to be a decked bus or vessel, built in Great Britain, and to proceed thereon from some port of Great Britain, manned and navigated as the law directs; and with a sufficient quantity of fishing nets and stores. Certificates to be produced before the collector and comptroller of the respective British ports, that it is their firm purpose to proceed therein, either to Brassa sound in Shetland, and be at the rendezvous of the fishery there on or before the 11th of June, and that they will not shoot or wet their nets before the 13th\* of the same month, and shall continue fishing among the shoals of herring, as they move southward,

\* By the alteration of the stile, the 24th is now the day for beginning to shoot their nets. M.



to the 1st of October; or they shall proceed to Campbeltown in Argyleshire, and be at the rendezvous of the fisheries there on or before the 1st of September, and continue fishing to the 31st of December, unless they shall sooner have completed their loading of fish; they shall keep a journal of their proceedings; of the quantity of fish they dispatch away to foreign markets in their tenders before they come into port, and of the particular quantity they shall bring into port with them, each vessel to carry out twelve Winchester bushels of salt for every last of fish she is capable of holding, to be barrelled up in new barrels; shall have two fleets of tanned nets for every vessel of 70 tons. Every vessel of 20 tons shall have six men, and for vessels of greater burden, one man more for every five tons. This act shall not exclude any of the king's subjects, though not of this society, from fishing for white herrings, cod, &c. in the same manner they might have done before this act. Any number of persons who shall subscribe £10,000 or more into the society, and shall carry on the fishery under their own management; and on their own account of profit and loss, conformably to the directions of this act (except their being obliged to use the marks of the society) and from the port named by them, if they subscribe under the name of the fishing chamber of such city, town, or port respectively, and shall send their account of monies expended in the said fisheries, attested by three of the committee appointed for managing the matters of the said chamber, and be also signed by their accountant, making oath of its being a true account, which account shall be transmitted to the society in London, whose accountant shall enter the same as a sum expended in the said fisheries by the society, in the account which he shall deliver in to the commissioners of the customs, as aforesaid, the said chamber shall receive 3 per cent, as the society do for other monies employed by them, after deducting the necessary charges arising from the receipt of the same. Such chambers as shall fish on their own account shall not have any profit or loss arising from the trade of the society.

Pursuant to this statute, his majesty's charter of incorporation was granted, being dated on the 11th of October 1750. And,

Though the success of this most public-spirited undertaking has not hitherto fully answered the expectation of the worthy promoters of it, in favour of whose generous zeal too much can hardly be said, yet it is to be hoped, and greatly to be wished, that by farther trials they may at length succeed. It is indeed extremely difficult to beat another nation out of a trade they have so long prospered in, even with the above great encouragement from the public, and more especially so frugal a people as the Dutch, who can content themselves with smaller gains than other nations, and carry on the fishery every one on his own private bottom.\*

\* It has with great truth been remarked by a very judicious gentleman, that all the companies who have set on foot fisheries on a great scale, and proposed to carry all before them by the weight of their capital, have miscarried. They rendered the necessary apparatus dear by a sudden demand be-

We shall therefor suspend any farther remarks, and only join in the universal wish of all true Britons for its success. By a statute of the 30th of the same king (1757) instead of thirty shillings per ton, the bounty is increased to fifty shillings per ton on all the ships built and employed by this fishery company, with certain regulations relating to their nets, &c.

The many difficulties started by the court of Spain against carrying on the South-sea company's assiento trade, the oppressions of the Spanish officers and governors in the West-Indies, the frauds too obviously committed on the other hand by that company's agents in those parts, in spite of all their regulations and restrictions, and the complaints of the British merchants trading to Cadiz, seemed now all to concur, at both courts, for putting a final period to a trade which, without any substantial benefit to Great Britain, had given insuperable umbrage to the court of Madrid, so that both courts were the more easily brought into the treaty of Madrid, concluded on the 5th of October (N. S.) 1750, viz. the ambassadors of both kings, at the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748, having then agreed to regulate, at a proper time and place, the equivalent which Spain should give in consideration of the non-enjoyment of the remaining years of the assiento of negroes, and of the annual ship granted to Great Britain, their Britannic and Catholic majesties have now agreed on the following articles, viz.

I) His Britannic majesty yields to his Catholic majesty his right to the enjoyment of the assiento of negroes, and of the annual ship, during the four years stipulated by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle.

II) His Britannic majesty, in consideration of a compensation of £100,000 sterling, which his Catholic majesty promises to pay, either at Madrid or London, to the company, within three months at latest, yields to his Catholic majesty all that may be due to that company for balance of accounts, or arising in any manner whatsoever from the assiento: so that the said compensation shall be esteemed as a full and entire satisfaction on the part of his Catholic majesty, and shall extinguish, from this present time, for the future and forever, all right, pretension, or demand, which might be formed in consequence of the assiento, or annual ship, directly or indirectly, on the part of his Britannic majesty, or on that of the company.

yond the quantity in the market: they immediately employed more people than could possibly be found duly qualified: and they caught more fish than they could find sale for, either in the country, or abroad in competition with the better-cured herrings, and established markets, of the Dutch. He observes, that all the fisheries, that have ever prospered, have gradually arisen from small beginnings, the number of people bred to them, and the increase of the markets, keeping pace with the gra-

dual augmentation of the fisheries. When to the above drawbacks upon the prosperity of a fishery upon a great scale, we add the waste and want of economy in the transactions of great societies, and add to all these the innumerable hardships of the salt laws, we need not wonder, that all the patriotic efforts of great societies have been hurtful to themselves, and barren of benefit to the country. *M.*

III) The Catholic king yields to his Britannic majesty all his pretensions or demands in consequence of the said assiento and annual ship, as well with regard to the articles already liquidated as to those which may be either easy or difficult to liquidate; so that no mention can ever be made of them hereafter on either side.

IV) His Catholic majesty consents, that the British subjects shall not be bound to pay higher or other duties, or upon other evaluations for goods which they shall carry into, or out of, the different ports of his Catholic majesty, than those paid on the same goods in the time of King Charles II of Spain, settled by the cédulas and ordinances of that king or his predecessors. And though the favour or allowance called *pie del fardo* be not founded upon any royal ordinance, nevertheless, his Catholic majesty declares, that it shall be observed now, and for the future, as an inviolable law: and all the above-mentioned duties shall be exacted and levied, now and for the future, with the same advantages and favours to the said subjects.

V) His Catholic majesty allows the subjects of Britain to take and gather salt in the island of Tortudos (in the West-Indies) without any hinderance whatsoever; as they did in the time of King Charles II.

VI) He also consents that they shall not pay anywhere higher or other duties than those which his own subjects pay in the same place.

VII) His Catholic majesty grants, that they shall enjoy all the rights, privileges, franchises, exemptions, and immunities whatsoever, which they enjoyed before the last war, by virtue of cédulas or royal ordinances, and by the articles of the treaty of peace and commerce made at Madrid in the year 1667; and they shall be treated in Spain in the same manner as the most favoured nation; and consequently no nation shall pay less duties upon wool and other merchandizes which they shall bring into, or carry out of, Spain, by land\*, than the said subjects shall pay upon the same merchandizes, which they shall bring in, or carry out, by sea. And all the rights, privileges, franchises, exemptions, and immunities, which shall be granted or permitted to any nation whatever, shall also be granted and permitted to the said subjects: and his Britannic majesty consents that the same be granted and permitted to the subjects of Spain in his Britannic majesty's kingdoms.

VIII) His Catholic majesty promises to use all possible endeavours, on his part, to abolish all innovations for the future, which may have been introduced into commerce. And his Britannic majesty likewise promises to use all possible endeavours to abolish all innovations, and to forbear them for the future.

IX) Their Britannic and Catholic majesties confirm, by the present treaty, the last treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, and all the other treaties therein confirmed, in all their articles and clauses; excepting those which have been derogated from by the present treaty: as likewise the treaty.

\* This clause more especially respects the French nation. A.

of commerce concluded at Utrecht in the year 1713; those articles excepted which are contrary to the present treaty, which shall be abolished and of no force; and, namely, the three articles of the said treaty, commonly called explanatory.

X) All the reciprocal differences, rights, demands, and pretensions, which may have subsisted between the two crowns of Great Britain and Spain, in which no other nation whatever has any part, interest, or right of intervention, being thus accommodated and extinguished by this particular treaty; the two most serene kings engage themselves mutually to the punctual execution of this treaty of reciprocal compensation.

This is truly a most definitive treaty, in the strictest sense, as it relates purely to differences between Great Britain and Spain, without any relation to, or connection with, any other nation: and accordingly it has hitherto, till very lately, been well observed on both sides; and hereby a period was absolutely put to all foreign commerce whatever of the South-sea company.

This year an act of parliament was passed to encourage the importation of pig and bar iron from his majesty's colonies in America, and to prevent the erection of any mill, or other engine, for slitting or rolling iron, or any plating forge to work with a tilt hammer, or any furnace for making steel, in any of the said colonies. The title of this statute sufficiently shews how jealously our legislature prevented our greatly-increasing northern colonies from going far into manufactures interfering with those of their mother-country. Nevertheless, as our continental colonies are increasing fast in people, surely some latitude must, and will hereafter, be allowed in that respect, as the proportionable increase of our people there will undoubtedly occasion a like or greater increase of our general commerce thither.

By a statute of the 30th of King George II, this act of the 23d of this king, for importing bar iron from America into the port of London, was extended to all the ports of Great Britain; and some clauses in the first act, of less importance, were repealed.

This year an act of parliament passed for extending and improving the trade to Africa. Its preamble justly remarks, that the trade to and from Africa being very advantageous to Great Britain, and necessary for supplying the plantations and colonies with a sufficient number of negroes at reasonable rates, ought, for that reason, to be free and open to all his majesty's subjects; it was therefor enacted that it shall be lawful for all the king's subjects to trade to and from any place in Africa, between the port of Sallee in South-Barbary, and the Cape of Good Hope, without any restraint whatsoever, except as herein after expressed, viz.

I) All his majesty's subjects, who shall trade to and from Africa, be-

tween Cape Blanco and the Cape of Good Hope, shall forever hereafter be deemed a body corporate and politic, by the name of the Company of merchants trading to Africa, with perpetual succession and a common seal, and may sue and be sued, &c. as other corporations.

II) All the British forts, settlements, and factories, on the coast of Africa, from Cape Blanco to the Cape of Good Hope, and all coasts, islands, rivers, regions, &c. within the said limits, which are now claimed, or possessed, by the royal African company of England, or which may hereafter be in the possession of the company hereby established, shall, from the passing of an act for divesting the African company of their charter, forts, and all their other property on the coast of Africa, be absolutely vested in the new company established by this act; and their successors, to the intent that the said forts, &c. shall be employed only for the protection, encouragement, and defence, of the trade.

III) Yet this new company shall not trade to or from Africa, in their corporate capacity, neither shall they have any joint, or transferable stock, nor shall they borrow money on their common seal.

IV) The direction of the affairs of this new company shall be by a committee of nine persons, to be chosen annually; to meet as often as shall be necessary, in some place within the city of London, the majority of whom being assembled, shall have full power to make orders for governing and improving the forts, factories, &c.: so as no orders nor regulations of theirs shall lay any restraint whatsoever on the trade or traders, contrary to the intent of this act.

V) Such as intend to trade to Africa, and who shall, on or before the 30th of June 1750, pay 40s each to the chamberlain of London for their freedom of this company, are empowered to meet at Gildhall, and choose three persons; and they who shall pay 40s into the hands of the clerk of the merchants hall of Bristol, to choose three persons; and the like at Liverpool, for choosing three persons: and the nine persons so chosen shall be the first annual committee.

VI) In all future elections the committee shall be nominated on the 3d of July yearly, in manner following, viz. three shall be nominated by the freemen of the company admitted in London, and three at Bristol, and three at Liverpool. And the freemen of this company, in each of the said three places, may choose other committee-men in the place of such as shall die or be removed, or who shall refuse to act. And if they, or any of the three places, neglect to choose such, then the remainder, though less in number than nine, may act as the committee, till next year's election. In case of an equality of voices at any election, the lord-mayor of London, and the mayors of Bristol and Liverpool, respectively, shall determine which of such persons shall be the committee-men. From and after the 30th of June 1750 any other of his majesty's subjects, who shall trade to or from Africa, shall be admitted

freemen of the said company, at London, Bristol, or Liverpool, upon payment of 40*s*, as aforesaid, but shall not vote at the election of committee-men until one year after their admission. The said freedom money of 40*s* shall be accounted for to the annual committee. No person shall be a committee-man above three years successively. The committee may invest the money in their hands, in the purchase of goods and stores for Africa, there to be applied for the sole use, preservation, &c. of their forts and settlements, and for the wages, salaries, &c. of their officers, &c. employed there; but the committee shall not export from Africa any negroes, or other goods, in return; nor shall in any other manner carry on a trade to or from Africa; and an account of the committee's receipts and payments shall be kept, and lie open at their office in London, to be perused gratis by any member of the company. The commissioners for trade and plantations may remove any of the committee-men, or the officers and servants of this company, upon misbehaviour. And the committee shall render an account of their transactions to the board of trade and plantations annually, or oftener, if required. The committee, out of the monies they shall receive, may deduct, annually, £800 for defraying, in the first place, the salaries of their clerks, &c. at the said three places, and all other charges of management; and the residue of that sum shall be divided among themselves, as a compensation for their trouble. The committee's accounts shall be annually examined, upon oath, by the curfitor-baron of the exchequer, and they shall lay a copy of such accounts, &c. before the parliament in every session, as also before the general meetings of their own members, held in London, Bristol, and Liverpool.

VII) The forts, warehouses, &c. of this company, shall, at all times, be free to all his majesty's subjects, to be used as warehouses for depositing gunpowder, gold, elephants' teeth, wax, gums, and drugs, and no other goods; and shall also be free and open, in case of necessity or danger, to all his majesty's subjects, for the safety of their persons and effects. Three masters of the court of chancery, whereof the accountant-general of that court to be one, shall be commissioners for examining and allowing the claims of the creditors of the royal African company, after which that company shall be divested of their charter, and be dissolved.

Thus this very considerable branch of the British commerce again assumed a new appearance, after having passed, as we have shewn, through several different constitutions, and various conditions. What has by this act been established, remains still in being, and with general approbation, though there are not wanting some who still think that so important a trade ought to be under a stricter government, and even in a joint-stock corporation, as in former times; of which opinion, time,



and the experience of the traders to that extended coast, will determine the validity \*.

1751.—In the year 1751 Dr. William Douglas, of Boston in New-England, published there his Summary, historical and political, of the first planting of the British continent colonies of America; in which he gives a very just and concise view of the entire country, usually known by the general name of New-England, as at present divided into four separate governments, viz. the first and principal one, known by the name of the province of the Massachusetts-bay, of which Boston is the capital city, contains 200,000 white inhabitants: the government of which province is in the crown, but the property is in the representatives of the people. The second province is Connecticut, containing 100,000 white people. Thirdly, Rhode-island, containing 30,000 white people; in both which later provinces the government and property are in the representatives of the people. Fourthly, New-Hampshire, in which both government and property are in the crown, contains 24,000 white inhabitants. The total white people in all New-England then was 354,000. Dr. Douglas had lived many years in that country, and is allowed, by all we have conversed with from thence, to have given a true account of the number of people of New-England at that period.

We have, in its place, shewn, that the Danes had antiently a colony in the country, by them properly called Groneland, i. e. Greenland, and by others, Old Greenland, lying north-west of Norway, being a largely extended country, situated north of Davis's straits, in a very inhospitable climate, and, for aught we yet know, may be properly a part of North-America. That inhospitable country, however, we find, by an edict of Frederic V king of Denmark, dated at Copenhagen the 26th March 1751, is again replanted by Denmark. The edict expressly prohibiting all persons, as well natives as foreigners, from resorting to the colonies established by us, (says that king) in our country of Greenland, which we have granted to a general and privileged company exclusively, we being hereditary lord of that country, upon pain of seizure and confiscation, against all such as shall trade thither in prejudice of the said company's right. The limits shall extend 15 miles on both sides of each colony, including therein all the places lying between the Western isles, and the bay called in the maps Blackbirds-bay. This settlement is chiefly intended for the whale and seal fishery, and for peltry. Of its progress we may possibly learn more hereafter.

The South-sea company having proposed to the government to accept an interest of 4 per cent on their capital stock of £3,662,784 : 8 : 6 till christmas 1757, and then to stand reduced to £3 per cent per annum,

\* The total value of the imports of England in the year 1750, was £7,772,039, and of the exports (not including gold and bullion) £12,699,081. [*Whitworth's State.*] M.

provided, that the manner of the receipt from the exchequer, and the charges of management upon the present old and new South-sea annuities, and on their said capital stock, be continued as they now are: an act of parliament, in consequence thereof, passed in the 24th year of King George II, for reducing the same accordingly upon those terms, and for preventing frauds committed by the officers and servants of the said company, viz.

I) After christmas 1757 their capital stock shall be reduced to 3 per cent, until redemption thereof, in full discharge of all demands of the company on the king of Spain, on account of the *asiento*, or annual ship, or on any account whatsoever, over and above the sum of £100,000, paid pursuant to treaty.

II) The company shall continue to receive from the exchequer, out of the funds appropriated for that purpose, what monies shall, from time to time, become due for the interest thereof and charges of management, upon such part of the old and new South-sea annuities as are not redeemed, and on their capital stock; and all the rights and exemptions, with regard to the redemption of their capitals, shall be confirmed in the same manner as they now stand.

III) If any officer or servant of the company, entrusted with any note, bill, dividend warrant, bond, deed, or security, money, or other effects, belonging to the company, or to other persons, deposited with the company, or with him, as an officer or servant of the company, shall secrete, embezzle, or run away with the same, and be convicted thereof in due form of law, he shall be deemed guilty of felony, and suffer death as a felon, without benefit of clergy.

Thus, for the prevention of future disputes between Great Britain and Spain, this company was debarred from all future claims on the court of Spain (though certainly very considerable and equitable ones), pursuant to the treaty of Madrid, whereby our king agreed to accept of £100,000 for the company, in full compensation for all their considerable losses. So that between their very great losses sustained by their ill-fated *asiento* contract, and by the most national undertaking of their whale fishery, that company may truly and impartially be said to merit not only the compassion, but even the particular regard, of the public.

By a statute of the 24th year of King George II, for enabling his majesty to raise the several sums of money therein mentioned, by exchequer bills, &c. the treasury was empowered to issue £2,276,893 : 11 : 7, being the total principal sum remaining payable upon the unsubscribed old and new South-sea annuities, after deducting £48,129 : 17 : 4, by this act directed to be subscribed into the said annuities, towards redeeming them. Any part of which sum might be replaced by such as were trustees for certain purposes, as far as such monies would go at the

current market price, either in the said annuities, or in other purchases, public or private. And whereas several persons, not being timely apprized of the notice given for subscribing in their several annuities, being in the king's colonies in America, and other foreign parts, &c. the sums which, on the 28th of February 1749, should be intitled to the benefit of those subscriptions, amounting to L12,210:2:1 in new South-sea annuities, and L13,443:14:3 in old South-sea annuities, they shall be intitled to the vote of the house of commons of 21st March 1749, as amply as if they had severally accepted the said terms on or before the 30th of May 1750.

On Wednesday, the 22d of May 1751, the ever-famous act of the British legislature, of the 24th year of King George II, received the royal assent, for regulating the commencement of the year, and for correcting the calendar now in use, i. e. for abolishing the old stile, and for establishing the new stile, already in use in most parts of Christendom.

Its preamble sets forth, that the legal supputation of the year in England, which begins on the 25th of March, hath been attended with divers inconveniencies \*, as it differs from other nations, and from the legal method of computation in Scotland, and the common usage throughout the whole kingdom; and that thereby frequent mistakes in the dates of deeds and other writings are occasioned, and disputes arise therefrom. And that the Julian calendar, now in use throughout the British dominions, hath been discovered to be erroneous, by means whereof the vernal equinox, which at the time of the council of Nice in the year 325, happened on or about the 21st of March, now happens on the 9th or 10th of the same month: and as the error is still increasing, and, if not remedied, will in time occasion the several equinoxes and solstices to fall at very different times in the civil year from what they formerly did, which may tend to mislead persons ignorant of such alteration; and as a method of correcting the calendar, so as that the equinoxes and solstices may for the future fall on the same nominal days on which they happened at the time of the said general council, hath been received and established, and is now generally practised by almost all other nations of Europe †; and as it will be of general con-

\* It is strange that this was not rectified long ago. A.

† The mean tropical solar year, or that mean space of time wherein the sun or earth, departing from any point of the ecliptic, returns to the same point again, consists, according to the learned Dr. Halley's tables, of 365 days 5 hours 48 minutes and 55 seconds; which being less by 11 minutes and 5 seconds than the mean Julian year or old stile, consisting of 365 days and 6 hours, made an error in our old stile, hitherto followed by Great Britain, of 11 minutes and 5 seconds in each Ju-

lian year, being 44 minutes and 20 seconds in every 4 years, and 3 days 1 hour 53 minutes and 20 seconds in every 400 Julian years, or years of our old stile; and made 11 days difference between us and the greatest part of Europe, especially all of the Roman catholic persuasion, and most of the protestant states also. The Julian year or old stile continued to be used all over Europe, until Pope Gregory XIII, by the help of the best astronomers, in the year 1582, discovered the inconveniencies of the Julian computation, whereby it appeared, that in 129 years and 337½ days, it

venience to merchants and other persons corresponding with other nations and countries, and will tend to prevent mistakes and disputes concerning the dates of letters and accounts, if the like correction be received and established in his majesty's dominions; it was therefor enacted, that throughout all his majesty's dominions the old supputation should not be used after the last day of December 1751, and that the first of January following should be accounted the first day of the year 1752, and so on in every year after: and after the said first of January 1752 the days of the months should go on and be reckoned in the same order, and the feast of easter, and other moveable feasts depending thereon, should be ascertained according to the same method they now are till the 2d of September 1752 inclusive, and the next day should be accounted the 14th of September, omitting, for that time only, the eleven intermediate nominal days; and the following days should be numbered forward in numerical order from the said 14th of September, as now used in the present calendar: and all acts and writings, executed upon or after the said first of January 1752, should bear date according to the new method of supputation; and the two fixed terms of St. Hilary and St. Michael in England, and the courts of great sessions in the counties Palatine and in Wales, and the courts of general quarter sessions, and general sessions of the peace, and all other courts and meetings and assemblies of any bodies politic or corporate, for the election of officers or members, or for officers entering upon the execution of their respective offices, or for any other purpose, which by law or usage, &c. are to be held on any fixed day of any month, or on any day depending on the beginning, or any certain day of any month, except courts usually holden with fairs or marts, should, after the said 2d of September, be held on the same nominal days and times whereon they are now to be holden, but computed according to the new method of numbering, that is, eleven days sooner than the respective days whereon the same are now kept.

The years 1800, 1900, 2100, 2200, 2300, or any other hundredth year, except every fourth hundredth, whereof the year 2000 shall be

made an error of one whole day, and in 400 Julian years an error of 3 days, 1 hour, 53 minutes, and 20 seconds, as above; and that since the council of Nice in the year 325 the old stile had made an error of upwards of 9 days, which in the year 1701 was computed to be 11 days, i. e. so much was our error at the commencement of the 18th century; whereby our old stile made the vernal equinox happen 11 days sooner than by the new-stile it really does; so that our 10th of March ought to be reckoned (as it will now be) the 21st of that month. Pope Gregory's main intention in that alteration was to regulate the true time of celebrating the feast of easter; but our grand con-

cern, in a mercantile sense, was to reduce our stile to uniformity with the rest of Europe; the difference of 11 days frequently occasioning errors and mistakes in business. Moreover, nothing certainly could be more inconvenient (not to say absurd) than to begin our legal year on the 25th of March, whereby a whole year was frequently mistaken in our histories through inadvertency: the year therefore was now to commence on the 1st of January with all the rest of Christendom, and especially with Scotland; though that country, in other respects, had, like England, till now kept to the old stile. *A.*

the first, shall be deemed common years, consisting of 365 days; and the years 2000, 2400, 2800, and every other fourth hundredth year from the year 2000 inclusive, and all other years which by the present supputation are esteemed to be bissextile, or leap-years, shall for the future be esteemed to be bissextile, or leap-years, consisting of 366 days, as is now used with respect to every fourth year.

The feast of easter, and the moveable feasts thereon depending, shall be no longer observed according to the method of supputation now used, or the table prefixed to the book of common prayer; and the said table, and also the column of golden numbers, as they are now prefixed to the respective days of the month in the calendar, shall be left out in all future editions of the said book; and the new calendar, tables, and rules, annexed to the act, are to be prefixed in the stead thereof: and from and after the said 2d of September, the fixed feasts, holidays, and fasts, of the church of England, and also the several solemn days of thanksgiving and of fasting and humiliation, enjoined to be observed by parliament, shall be observed on the respective nominal days marked for the celebration of the same in the new calendar, that is to say, on the respective nominal days; and the feast of easter, and other moveable feasts thereon depending, shall be celebrated according to the said annexed calendar; and the two moveable terms of easter and trinity, and all courts, meetings, and assemblies, of any bodies politic or corporate, and all markets, fairs, and marts, and courts, thereunto belonging, which by any law, statute, charter, or usage, are to be held and kept at any moveable time depending upon easter, or other moveable feast, shall, after the said 2d of September, be held and kept on the same days and times whereon the same shall happen, according to the falling of easter by the new calendar.

The meetings of the court of session, and terms fixed for the court of exchequer in Scotland, the April meeting of the conservators of the great level of the fens, and the holding and keeping of markets, fairs, and marts, for the sale of goods or cattle, or for hiring of servants, or for other purposes, which are fixed to certain nominal days of the month, or depending on the beginning, or any certain day, of any month, and all courts kept with such fairs or marts, shall, after the said 2d of September, be kept upon the same natural days upon which the same would have been held if this act had not been made, i. e. eleven days later than the same would happen according to the nominal days of the new supputation of time, by which the commencement of each month, and the nominal days thereof, are brought forward eleven days.

But this act shall not accelerate or anticipate the days or times for the opening, inclosing, or shutting, up of grounds, common of pasture, or the days and times on which a temporary and distinct property and right in any such lands or grounds is to commence; but they shall be

respectively opened, and inclosed, or shut up, and shall commence on the same natural days and times after the said 2d of September as before the making of this act, that is, eleven days later than the same would happen according to the new supputation of time.

Neither shall this act accelerate or anticipate the times of payment of rents, annuities, or other monies, which shall become payable in consequence of any custom, usage, lease, deed, writing, or other contract or agreement, now subsisting, or which shall be entered into before the said 14th of September, or which shall become payable by virtue of any act of parliament; nor accelerate the payment, or increase the interest, of any money which shall become payable as aforesaid, or the time of the delivery of any goods or other things whatsoever, or the commencement or determination of any leases or demises of lands, &c. or other contracts or agreements, annuity, or rent, or of any grant for a term of years, &c. or the time of attaining the age of 21 years, or any other age requisite by law, usage, or writing, for doing any act, or for any other purpose, by any persons now born, or who shall be born, before the said 14th of September; or the time of the determination of any apprenticeship or other service by indenture, or by articles under seal, or by reason of any simple contract or hiring: but all these shall commence, cease, and determine, at and upon the same natural days and times on which they would have happened if this act had not been made.

By a subsequent law (of the 25th of George II) to amend this act, it was enacted, 1st, that from the 2d of September 1752 the respective times for opening, using, or inclosing, grounds for common pasture, and the payment of rents, &c. shall, if such times are depending on any of the moveable feasts, take place according to the new calendar: 2dly, the annual admission and swearing of the lord-mayor of London at Guildhall hereafter shall be on the 8th of November, and the solemnity of swearing him at the court of exchequer at Westminster on the 9th of the same month of November yearly.

It were farther to be wished, that, when the legislature were upon a subject so useful to commerce and chronology, they had turned their thoughts to the present method of dating acts of parliament from the years of the reigning king, without mentioning the year of our Lord Christ, as in the laws of many other nations; whereby much uncertainty and frequent mistakes happen in computing a number of years between a certain year of one king's reign to a certain year of another king's reign, or to the present time. This is frequently complained of, though not yet remedied: yet this may easily be remedied in future, by superadding the year of our Lord Christ to the year of the reigning king.



The flourishing and much-improved condition of the kingdom of Ireland in this year is so fully expressed in the earl of Orrery's Letters on the life and writings of Dean Swift, published in this year, that we shall transcribe it, from *letter xvi, p. 127*. 'The present state of Ireland is in general as flourishing as possible. Agriculture is cultivated, arts and sciences are encouraged; and in the space of eighteen years no kingdom can be more improved. Ireland, in relation to England, may be compared to a younger sister lately come of age, after having suffered all the miseries of an injured minor, such as lawsuits, encroachments upon her property, violation of her rights, destruction of her tenants, and every evil that can be named. At length, time, and her own noble spirit of industry, have entirely relieved her; and, some little heartburnings excepted, she enjoys the quiet possession of a very ample fortune, subject, by way of acknowledgement, to certain quit-rents payable to the elder branch of her house: and let me add, by experience, that, take her all in all, she cannot have a greater fortune than she deserves.'

The great and progressive improvement of the linen manufacture in Scotland is well worth recording. Between the year 1727, (when an act of parliament passed for that end, whereby 21 trustees were appointed, under the great seal, for superintending the same), and this year 1751, the following quantities of linen were stamped for sale.

|                           |   | Yards of linen. |   | Value.    |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------|---|-----------|
| In five years, 1728—1732  | - | 17,441,161      | - | L662,938  |
| five years, 1733—1737     | - | 23,734,136      | - | 897,254   |
| five years, 1738—1742     | - | 23,366,863      | - | 949,221   |
| five years, 1743—1747     | - | 28,227,086      | - | 1,155,281 |
| And four years, 1748—1751 | - | 30,172,300      | - | 1,344,814 |

N. B. The British linen company, erected in the year 1746, has been greatly instrumental in the advancement of that manufacture in Scotland, by advancing ready money to the poorer manufacturers for their goods: whereby they are enabled to go on with much more spirit. The board of trustees likewise bestow annual premiums for the best manufactures; whereby a spirit of industry increases, more than ever, all over Scotland\*.

1752.—The African or Guinea trade having been laid more open in a regulated company, by a statute of the 23d of King George II, before recited, it became necessary to make a compensation to the old royal

\* Amsterdam, which used to be the general warehouse for all the merchandize of Europe, was now in a great measure deprived of that advantage: and the commerce of Hamburgh, by a direct intercourse with France, Spain, Portugal, and Italy, was rising fast upon the decline of the Dutch trade. As a proof of this change, it is observed, that the quantities of sugar, coffee, and

indigo, now shipped for Amsterdam at Bourdeaux and Nantes, were only in the proportion of one to three of the same goods shipped for Hamburgh; whereas Amsterdam used formerly to take off thrice as much as Hamburgh from those ports. [*Lettre sur la jalousie de commerce, p. 251. Anst. 1771.*] M.

African company, for their charter, lands, forts, slaves, stores, and other effects, &c. An act, therefor, was now passed, for the application of a sum of money, therein mentioned, for those purposes, and for vesting those lands, forts, &c. in the new company of merchants trading to Africa; for which ends commissioners had before been appointed to examine the claims laid before parliament by the late company. And it was now enacted, that the late royal African company should, after the 10th of April 1752, be absolutely divested of their charter, &c. and of all their lands, forts, &c. beginning at the port of Sallee, and extending thence southward to the Cape of Good Hope, together with all their cannon, canoe-men, slaves, rights, and evidences, &c. The new company, with the consent of the board of trade and plantations, are empowered to arm and train military forces at their forts, and to punish offences, so as not to extend to life or limb; and to erect courts of judicature for mercantile and maritime bargains, &c. and the sum of £112,142 : 3 : 6 was ordered out of the supplies of this session, for the compensation due to the old company.

For the better civilizing and improving the Highlands of Scotland, and preventing disorders there for the future, an act of parliament of this same session passed for annexing certain forfeited estates in Scotland (by the rebellions of the years 1745 and 1746), to the crown unalienably, and for making satisfaction to the lawful creditors thereupon; and to establish a method of managing the same, enacted, that all the lands, lordships, baronies, &c. of Simon, late Lord Lovat, &c. shall, from the 25th of December 1752, be annexed to the crown unalienable forever, saving the rights and claims thereon duly entered in the court of session. The clear income of the said lands to be applied to the purposes of civilizing the inhabitants upon the said estates, and other parts of the Highlands and isles of Scotland, promoting amongst them the protestant religion, good government, industry, and manufactures, and the principles of loyalty and duty to his majesty, &c. and to no other use or purpose whatsoever. The king may appoint commissioners and trustees for managing the said estates, and for applying the produce for those ends and purposes, without having any pension or reward for the same. They may grant leases thereof for 21 or 41 years, whereon the lessees shall covenant to lay out on the premises, in buildings and other improvements, in the first seven years, a sum not less than five years rent; reserving upon every lease not less than three fourths of the real annual value of the premises. All such lessees shall take the usual oaths to the government. No lease of lands or tenements, other than mines or fishings, shall be of greater annual rent than £20 at the most. The commissioners, with the approbation of the treasury, may appoint factors on the said estates, to whom 5 per cent of the rental shall be allowed. The commissioners are to appoint a survey of the estates to be made, with proper plans of their

extent and qualities, and what improvements may be made thereon; and an abstract of their proceeding is to be annually reported to the treasury, copies whereof to be laid before the parliament every session. The king may divide large parishes (entirely his own), and grant proper provisions to the ministers of such new parishes, out of the present maintenance for the minister of the old parish, and the remainder out of the rents of the said estates, so as the stipend shall not exceed £50 per annum, in money or value, to any one minister. The king may erect schools on the said estates, or in other parts of the Highlands or islands of Scotland, for instructing young persons in reading and writing the English language, and in the several branches of agriculture and manufactures, and may erect houses for their reception, and for carrying on such manufactures by them, and for accommodating their masters; and may apply such parts of the produce of the said estates as shall be necessary for erecting such schools, providing salaries for the teachers, for clothing and maintaining such young persons, and for supplying the schools with utensils and materials for agriculture and manufactures; and *for the raising of flax, &c.* as his majesty shall direct. And the king may empower the commissioners to allot portions of land for the use of such schools, or to apply such part of the clear rent of the lands as he shall direct, in the purchase of portions of land to be allotted for such schools. His majesty may empower the commissioners to grant out in property, portions of ground, not exceeding ten acres to one person, to persons well affected, who shall take the oaths to the government, and oblige themselves to erect dwelling houses, &c. and gardens thereupon; such grounds to be held feu of his majesty, for payment of a yearly feu duty equal to such a proportion of the rent as shall correspond to the ground feued out, &c. The king may, out of the rents of the estates aforesaid, erect prisons on such parts of the foresaid lands, or other parts of the Highlands, as he shall think fit, and the same shall be deemed lawful prisons; and he may make allowance for the maintenance of indigent prisoners, &c.

Of this very good law posterity will reap the principal benefit; beginnings being already made in several parts of the Highlands for working-schools, to which the most laudable society in Scotland for propagating christian knowledge in the Highlands, &c. have lent a helping hand by erecting several schools out of their own income, for the instruction of the children: new villages are also begun: manufactures, as well as agriculture, are set on foot, where none were known before: so that it is highly probable, that, in half a century more, the most uncultivated parts of that country will wear a very different aspect.

‘For several years past,’ says Dr. Busching, in his New geography, ‘between 4 and 5000 ships have sailed annually through the Sound: but in 1752 above 6000 ships (a number unheard of before), passed through those straits. In general that toll is on an equal footing with

‘ respect to all nations, excepting the Hamburgers, who must pay more than others : the English, Dutch, Swedish, and French, ships are not searched, when provided with proper passes, according to treaties, and pay down only 1 per cent for such goods as are not specified in the tariff ; but all other nations pay  $1\frac{1}{4}$  per cent, and must submit to be searched. With regard to the Hanse towns on the Baltic, there is a great variety in the toll they pay, for almost every one of those towns is treated with in particular.’

This year the king of Naples (afterwards king of Spain), established a commercial company at Messina ; principally intended for erecting manufactures of silk, stuffs, and camblets ; the company, for ten years to come, to be exempted from all kinds of duties : and, for their farther encouragement, he has limited the exportation of raw silk to half the wonted quantity. Thus almost every corner of Europe, in our age, strives to gain some part of the commercial advantages, which they clearly observe to contribute so much to the enrichment and exaltation of nations.

We, the same year, learned from Spain, that they are there striving for the increase of commerce and manufactures : that of late they have in the kingdom of Valencia 2000 looms for silk and woollen ; 1000 in Granada ; 500 in Catalonia ; and that, throughout all Spain, they reckon in all 10,000 such looms, for silk, gold, and silver tissue, middling and coarse woollen cloths, bays, serges, camblets, &c. ‘ And’ (says Don Geronimo de Ustariz, a judicious Spanish author) ‘ they are projecting no fewer than 60,000 new looms, whereby, not only to supply themselves and their Indies, but to export to other European nations ; and to erect I know not how many other new manufactures : of all which it will be right to suspend our belief till experience clears it up.’

1753.—By a supplemental act of the British parliament, of the 26th of George II, to explain, amend, and render more effectual, an act of the 23d year of George II, entitled, an Act for the encouragement of the British white-herring fishery, and for regulating the said fishery according to the calendar now in use, &c.

I) It was now enacted, that the commencement and duration of the fisheries, as directed by the former act, shall hereafter be conformable to the calendar now in use.

II) The society shall not be intitled to the bounty of thirty shillings per ton for such vessels as shall return into port at the end of the fishery with a less number of hands than they are required (by the first act) to have onboard at the rendezvous, unless it shall appear that such number hath been reduced by death, sickness, or desertion, without any fraud or collusion, on the part of the society : and the vessels are allowed, between the intervals of the Shetland and Yarmouth fisheries, to put into any port of Great Britain or Ireland, for the purpose of chang-

ing their nets, and preparing for the Yarmouth fishery; of which fishery the fleet of nets may be of any depth not under five fathoms.

III) That the quantity of such white herrings as shall hereafter be sent by the society or their agents to foreign markets, immediately from sea, without being first brought into port, shall be ascertained by the oath of the society's superintendant of the fishery. And whereas the place appointed by the first act for the rendezvous of the vessels on the first of September is, in many cases, found inconvenient, it is now enacted, that their vessels which shall rendezvous at Kirkwall in the Orkney islands, on or before the 12th of September; and shall continue to be employed in fishing among the shoals of herrings, as they move, to the 11th of January (unless their loading shall be sooner completed) shall, in case all the other regulations and conditions in the act be complied with, be intitled to the bounties granted therein, as if they had rendezvoused at Campbeltown at the time required by that act. No fishing vessel employed in the white-herring fishery shall be obliged to carry to the later fishing more than one fleet of nets.

An act of parliament [26 *Geo. II*] for permitting the exportation of wool, and woollen or bay yarn, from any port of Ireland to any port in Great Britain, sets forth in its preamble, that the permission of exporting wool, and woollen or bay yarn, only from certain ports in Ireland to certain ports in England, is not of so great and extensive an advantage to the trade of this kingdom as it would be, if all the ports in Great Britain and Ireland were opened for that purpose. It was therefore enacted, that, from the 5th of June 1753, any wool, or woollen or bay yarn, wool-fels, shortlings, mortlings, wool-flocks, and worsted yarn, may be exported from any port in Ireland to any port in Great Britain. Provided, that exportations and importations be under the same restrictions and regulations, and in the same manner in all respects as wool or woollen yarn are now by law permitted to be exported from Dublin, and other therein-named ports of Ireland, to Biddeford, and other therein-named ports of England, or any of them.

In the same year an act of parliament reduced the court of directors of the South-sea company, from three governors and thirty directors to three governors and twenty-one directors, at the succeeding general election: and ordained, that no more than fifteen of the directors, who were elected at the last preceding general election should be chosen again into that office at the following election. This prudent frugality proceeded from the consideration of their assiento trade being annihilated.

The French having gained a great superiority in the Turkey trade, a petition was presented to parliament for laying open our Turkey trade entirely. On the other side, the Turkey company represented, that an open trade to Turkey would but farther decrease the British trade thither. That the more favourable situation of the port of Mar-

feilles, and other concurring circumstances not easily to be surmounted, had gradually given the French their present superiority. The parliament therefor passed an act of this same year, for enlarging and regulating the trade into the Levant seas; the substance of which sets forth the patent of King James I, still in force at this time, dated 14th December 1605, (as we have recited in its proper place) and also that of King Charles II. ' And whereas the company's trade into the Levant ' seas has since much decreased; the taking of lesser fines for being ' made free of this company; and the not restraining the freedom ' thereof to mere merchants, and to such persons as, residing within ' twenty miles of London, are free of the said city; and the securing ' to all persons free of the company the liberty of exporting all sorts of ' goods and merchandize (not forbidden by law) to any place within ' the limits of their charter, from what parts of Great Britain, at what ' times, in what quantity, and on board what legal ships, they shall re- ' spectively think proper: and also of importing, in the like manner, ' from any place within the limits of the said letters patent, raw silk or ' any other lawful merchandize purchased within the said limits; are ' the most probable means of recovering and extending the trade for ' the benefit of the nation. It was therefor enacted,

I) That after the 24th of June 1754, instead of the former restraints in the charters of L25, to be paid for the freedom by persons under twenty-six years of age, and L50 by all above that age, the restriction of the freedom of the company to freemen of London, to mere merchants, &c. every subject of Great Britain, desiring admission into the Turkey company, shall be admitted within thirty days after such request, and shall enjoy all the liberties, privileges, &c. granted by the said letters patent, paying for such admission, to the use of the company, L20, and no more.

II) From the 24th of June 1754 all persons, free of the company, may, separately or jointly, export any goods or merchandize (not prohibited by law to be exported) from any place in Great Britain, to any place within the limits of the charter, in British or plantation-built ships, (navigated according to law) at any time, and to any persons whomsoever being free of the said company, or to the sons or apprentices of freemen, (such freemen, sons, or apprentices of freemen, being his majesty's christian subjects) so long as they shall remain under and submit to the protection and direction of the British ambassador and consuls respectively, for the time being: and may also import, in like manner, raw silk, or other commodities purchased within the limits of the said letters patent (not prohibited by law to be imported) upon paying the king's duties and customs, and such impositions as shall be assessed upon all merchandizes, &c. so exported or imported, or upon ships laden therewith, for defraying the necessary expenses of the company.



III) The exportation of gold and silver, either in foreign coin or bullion, shall be subject to the bye laws of the company.

IV) The governor, or deputy-governor and company, are empowered, at a general-court, to make such rules, ordinances, or bye laws, for the good government of the company, as the majority of the members present shall think necessary : but they shall not be valid, unless confirmed at a subsequent general court, to be held at least one month after the former. And if seven or more of the freemen shall think themselves aggrieved by any rule, &c. made, or to be made, they may appeal against the same, to the commissioners for trade and plantations, who are required, with all convenient speed, to hear such appeal, and to approve or disapprove of such law, &c. in such manner as shall appear to them to be fit and reasonable : but such rule, ordinance, or bye law, shall be in force till the appeal shall be heard, and disapproved thereby.

V) If any appeal shall be brought against any future rule, ordinance, or bye law, to be made, it shall be brought within twelve months after such rule, &c. shall be made and confirmed : and if any appeal shall be brought against any law, &c. of the company now in force, it shall be brought within twelve months after the 24th of June 1754. And the appellants shall at the same time give notice in writing of such appeal, to the governor, deputy-governor, or secretary, of the company.

Thus the trade from Great Britain to the Levant is hereby as much laid open as seems consistent with the nature of that trade, all things being duely and impartially considered.

Yet, after all, it is very difficult to recover a long-declining trade ; especially considering the shortness of the voyage from Marfeilles to the Levant, and their needing but one wind all the way, as well as the cheapness of freight, and perhaps some other advantages which the French may have gained from us in this trade. Time alone will decide, whether these new regulations, or what other means, can or will be effectual for regaining that ascendant we once had above all other christian nations in the trade to Turkey.

By an act of parliament, for encouraging and improving the manufacture of linen in the Highlands of Scotland, it was enacted, that as the manufacture of coarse linens hath been increased and improved in Great Britain and Ireland, and as some progress has been made in the manufacture of linen in the Highlands of Scotland, under the directions of the commissioners and trustees for improving fisheries and manufactures in Scotland ; and as the encouragement of the manufacture of coarse linens in those parts of the Highlands, wherein the manufacture of linens either hath not been already established, or not advanced to any considerable degree of perfection, will be a farther means of im-

proving and civilizing the Highlands, and the success of any provision for that purpose will tend to the general good of the whole united kingdom, and also of Ireland: it is now enacted,

I) That, from the expiration of the term for which bounties, by the herein-recited acts, are granted on the exportation of British and Irish coarse linens, the annual sum of £3000 shall be paid for nine years to the cashier of the commissioners and trustees for improving the fisheries and manufactures in Scotland, and shall be applied by them for encouraging and improving the manufacture of linens in the Highlands only.

II) No part of the said sum shall be applied for any other use than for instructing and exciting the inhabitants of that part of Scotland to raise, prepare, and spin, flax and hemp to be used in the manufacture of coarse linens, and to weave yarn, there spun, into such linen; and for providing the inhabitants with fit materials and utensils for those purposes; and for distributing rewards and prizes to the growers, preparers, spinners, weavers, and other manufacturers, in respect either to the quantity or excellence of the flax or hemp so raised and prepared, and of the yarn so spun, wove, or otherwise manufactured; and for such other like uses as the commissioners shall think proper, for promoting the true intent of this act. The said annual sum shall be paid in like manner as the annual sum of £2000, and the surplusage of the duty on malt made in Scotland, by the 13th of Geo. I, for encouraging and promoting fisheries and other manufactories and improvements in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, or as by letters-patent under the great seal in Scotland, are directed to be paid.

This year an act of parliament passed, for the purchase of the museum or collection of Sir Hans Sloane, and of the Harleian collection of manuscripts: and for providing one general repository for the better reception and more convenient use of the said collections; and of the famous Cottonian library, and of the additions made and to be made thereto. Now, though this statute has no immediate connection with commercial history, yet its consequences are like to prove so noble, so much to the honour of the nation, and so much tending to draw foreigners from all the polite parts of Christendom to London, for viewing so incomparable a collection of rich, scarce, and matchless, curiosities, of nature and art, that we could not pass it over in silence; more especially as, in its more remote consequences, it is likely to prove hereafter very beneficial to commerce.

The preamble sets forth, ' that Sir Hans Sloane baronet, deceased, ' having through the course of many years, with great labour and ' expence, gathered together whatever could be procured either in our ' own or foreign countries that was rare and curious, by a codicil ' bearing date 20th July 1749,—(after having expressed his desire, that

his said collection, in all its branches, might, if possible, be preserved together whole and entire, in his manor-house at Chelsea) did devise to certain trustees his said museum; consisting of all his library, drawings, manuscripts, prints, medals, and coins antient and modern, antiquities, seals, cameos, intaglios, pretious stones, agates, jaspers, vessels of agate and jasper, chrystals, mathematical instruments, drawings, and pictures; and all other things in his said collection, more particularly described and numbered, with short histories or accounts of them, in catalogues by him made, containing thirty-eight volumes in folio and eight in quarto; to have and to hold to them, and their successors and assigns forever, for such purposes, and with such powers, and under such restrictions, as in the said codicil are expressed; willing and desiring, that the said trustees should make their humble application to his majesty, or to the parliament, after his decease, to pay the sum of £20,000 to his executors, in consideration of his said museum; and also to obtain such sufficient powers, for vesting in the said trustees the said museum in all its branches: and also to obtain a sufficient fund or provision for maintaining and taking care of his said collection and premises. And as the museum is of much greater intrinsic value than the sum of £20,000, and as all arts and sciences have a connection with each other, and discoveries in natural philosophy and other branches of speculative knowledge (for the advancement and improvement whereof the said collection was intended) do and may, in many instances, give help and success to useful experiments and inventions, it is enacted,

I) That £20,000 be paid to the executors of Sir Hans Sloane for the said museum.

II) And whereas by an act of the 12th and 13th of King William III, for better settling and preserving the library kept in the house at Westminster, called Cotton-house, in the name of the family of the Cottons, for the benefit of the public; reciting, that Sir Robert Cotton, late of Conington in the county of Huntingdon, baronet, did, at his own great charge, and by the assistance of the most learned antiquaries of his time, collect and purchase the most useful manuscripts, written books, papers, parchments, records, and other memorials, in most languages; of great use and service for the knowledge and preservation of our constitution in church and state: and farther reciting, that the said library had been preserved with the utmost care by Sir Thomas Cotton, son of the said Sir Robert, and by Sir John Cotton, (then living) grandson of the said Sir Robert; and had been very much augmented by them, and lodged in a very proper place in the said Sir Robert's antient mansion-house at Westminster, for public use and advantage.—III) That the trustees thereby appointed shall have the said Cotton-house and gardens, &c. and also the

' said library vested in them and their successors forever, for the pur-  
 ' poses therein mentioned, upon trust, to inspect, consult, and take  
 ' care of the said library; and shall appoint a person well read in  
 ' antiquities and records to have the immediate care thereof. IV)  
 ' and an act of the 5th of Queen Anne, for the better securing her  
 ' majesty's purchase of the said Cotton-house, recites, that the queen  
 ' might render so great a treasure of books and manuscripts useful to  
 ' her own subjects and to all learned foreigners, she had purchased the  
 ' said Cotton-house and garden, for L4500 of Sir John Cotton; and  
 ' that a convenient room should be built, wherein the said library  
 ' should be lodged, and should be called by the name of Cottonian-  
 ' library; to be managed by the trustees therein mentioned, for the  
 ' use of the public forever: which library, however, (for want of a  
 ' proper repository) did, in the year 1731, suffer by a fire, which con-  
 ' sumed the house wherein the same was then placed; and what re-  
 ' mains of the said library still continues in the same inconvenient  
 ' room to which (upon occasion of that fire) it was removed. And  
 ' farther recites, that Arthur Edwards Esquire, being desirous to pre-  
 ' serve for the public use the said library, did, by will dated in 1738,  
 ' devise L7000 (after the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Milles) to erect, in a  
 ' proper situation, such a house as might be most likely to preserve the  
 ' said library from future accidents. But, if, before that bequest  
 ' should take place, such a building shall be erected, then the said sum  
 ' shall be employed in purchasing such manuscripts, books of antiqui-  
 ' ties, antient coins, medals, and other curiosities, as might be worthy  
 ' to increase and enlarge the said library. He did also thereby give to  
 ' the said trustees all his books, in cases, and also his pictures; which  
 ' have been placed, according to his desire, in the said library.

' V) And whereas the right honourable the countess dowager of  
 ' Oxford and Mortimer, and the most noble the duchess of Portland,  
 ' her only daughter, have expressed their approbation of a proposal for  
 ' the purchase of the valuable collection of manuscripts collected by  
 ' the late earl of Oxford, and by his father, in consideration of  
 ' L10,000, on condition that the same shall be kept together in a proper  
 ' repository, as an addition to the Cottonian library, and to be called  
 ' by the name of the Harleian collection of manuscripts: it is now  
 ' enacted, that L10,000 shall be paid for them to the said countess's  
 ' trustees. The said collection of manuscripts to be placed and con-  
 ' tinued in the same repository in which the Cottonian library is  
 ' hereafter to be placed. The archbishop of Canterbury, the lord  
 ' chancellor (or lord keeper), the lord treasurer (or first commissioner  
 ' of the treasury), the lord president of the council, the lord privy-seal,  
 ' the lord high-admiral (or first commissioner of the admiralty), the  
 ' lord steward and lord chamberlain of his majesty's household, the

' bishop of London, each of the principal secretaries of state, being a  
 ' being a peer or lord of parliament, the speaker of the house of com-  
 ' mons, each of the principal secretaries of state, not being a peer or  
 ' lord of parliament, the chancellor of the exchequer, the lord chief  
 ' justice of the king's bench, the master of the rolls, the lord chief  
 ' justice of the common pleas, his majesty's attorney general and solici-  
 ' tor general, the president of the royal society, the president of the  
 ' royal college of physicians; together with Charles lord Cadogan, and  
 ' Hans Stanley Esquire; with Samuel Boroughs and Thomas Hart  
 ' Esquires (two of the present trustees of the Cottonian library); toge-  
 ' ther also with the most noble William duke of Portland, and the  
 ' right honourable Edward earl of Oxford and Mortimer; shall be  
 ' trustees for putting this act into execution: and they, or the major  
 ' part of them, in a general meeting assembled (whereof the arch-  
 ' bishop of Canterbury, the lord chancellor, or lord keeper, and the  
 ' speaker of the house of commons, shall be three) shall nominate  
 ' fifteen other persons to be associates to them, and who shall continue  
 ' trustees for life: and on the death of any such trustee, the rest shall,  
 ' in like manner, elect another in his place, and so *toties quoties*.

' VI) One general repository shall be provided in such convenient  
 ' place within the cities of London or Westminster, or their suburbs,  
 ' as the trustees shall direct, for the reception of Sloane's museum, the  
 ' Cottonian library (and the additions to be made thereto by virtue  
 ' of the will of the said Arthur Edwards Esquire); and also of the Har-  
 ' leian manuscripts; and of such other additions to the Cottonian library  
 ' as shall be made; and of such other collections and libraries, as, with  
 ' the approbation of the trustees for this act, shall be admitted into the  
 ' said general repository. And the museum of Sir Hans Sloane, in all  
 ' its branches, shall therein be kept together and entire, with proper  
 ' marks of distinction. Also the Harleian collection of manuscripts  
 ' shall be kept together in the general repository, as an addition to the  
 ' Cottonian library.

' VII) The trustees shall be one body politic and corporate, and shall  
 ' have succession forever, by the name of the trustees of the British  
 ' museum; with a common seal; and may sue and be sued, make bye  
 ' laws, &c. with power to purchase and enjoy, for the purposes of this  
 ' act, as well goods and chattles, as lands, tenements, and heredita-  
 ' ments, not exceeding L500 yearly. They may at a general meeting,  
 ' from time to time, make statutes and rules for the custody, preserva-  
 ' tion, and inspection, of the before-named several collections; may  
 ' appoint the salaries of officers, and may displace such at pleasure.  
 ' And the archbishop of Canterbury, chancellor, and speaker, or any  
 ' two of them, shall recommend to his majesty two fit persons, for the  
 ' king to name one of them to be principal librarian. And the rest of

‘ the officers and servants shall be appointed by those three, or any two of them; who are hereby empowered, in case of the sickness or other necessary absence of those officers, to appoint deputies to supply their places.

‘ VIII) Free access to the said general repository shall be given by the trustees to all studious and curious persons, at such times, in such manner, and under such regulations, for inspecting and consulting the same, as by the trustees, at a general meeting, shall be limited for that purpose.

‘ IX) A lottery for £300,000 in tickets of £3 each, is hereby appointed for the purposes aforesaid; and twice 50,000 tickets, at £3 each, were to be issued for that end; the first 50,000 tickets to determine the fate of the second 50,000 tickets:”\* And the profits arising from that lottery were to pay the sum of £20,000 to Sir Hans Sloane’s executors, and £10,000 to the countess of Oxford; the expense of purchasing a general repository for receiving the museum from Sir Hans’s manor-house at Chelsea, receiving the manuscripts of the late earl of Oxford, and removing the Cottonian library; and also for salaries to officers and servants, and the necessary furniture of the general repository, and such cabinets, book-cases, and other necessaries and embellishments as the condition of the several collections shall require.

We shall only farther add, that since this act was passed, the trustees have purchased and fitted up the elegant palace of the late duke of Montague, for the reception of the different collections; an house worthy to be the general repository of the richest and noblest collection in the universe;—a collection so rich, so vast, and so amazing, as literally to require days instead of hours, for the mere perusal of it.

An act of parliament passed this session to render more effectual an act of the 12th year of Queen Anne, for providing a public reward for such person or persons as shall discover the longitude at sea, and to enlarge the number of commissioners for putting in execution the said act. This statute (after reciting the former act) now enacts, that whereas a competent number of the commissioners for the longitude have heard and received several proposals, at different times, for that discovery, and were so far satisfied of the probabilities of such discoveries, that they thought it proper to make experiments thereof, and certified the same to the commissioners of the navy, with the name of Mr. John Harrison, author of the said proposals, who thereupon received

\* In this lottery only £200,000 were paid in prizes to the adventurers, and £100,000 (deducting only the expense of the lottery) remained to this general repository: so disadvantageous a lottery having never before been countenanced by authority. *A.*

By this lottery the holders of 100,000 tickets collectively and voluntarily contributed twenty

shillings each for the establishment of the BRITISH MUSEUM, one of the noblest institutions in the kingdom, the advantages of which are immediately or mediately enjoyed by every person in the whole world who has a taste for literature or natural philosophy. Where has £100,000 of British money ever been better employed? *M.*



L1250, as part of L2000, allotted by the former act; which the commissioners thought necessary for making the said experiments. And whereas a like competent number of commissioners for the longitude did appoint Mr. William Whiston to survey and determine the longitude and latitude of the chief ports and headlands on the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland, and the islands and plantations thereunto belonging, for which purpose L500 more (part of the said L2000) was applied; so that the commissioners have now only L250 remaining of the said L2000. And as, from the experiments already made, there is great reason to expect, that by continuing to encourage ingenious persons to make farther improvements, such discoveries may at length be produced as will effectually answer the end, and thereby contribute very much to the advantage of the trade and honour of this kingdom; it is therefor hereby enacted, that any five of the said commissioners shall have full power to hear and receive proposals for discovering the longitude; and where they shall be so far satisfied of the probability of any such proposal or discovery, as to think it proper to make experiment thereof, they shall certify the same, together with the names of the authors, to the commissioners of the navy, who shall thereupon make out bills for such sums (not exceeding L2000, over and above the said L250) as the commissioners for the longitude shall think necessary for making such experiments. The governor of Greenwich hospital, the judge of the admiralty court, the secretaries of the treasury, the secretary of the admiralty board, and the comptroller of the navy, shall be joint commissioners with those appointed by the act of the 12th of Queen Anne, for discovering the longitude.

By an act of the 7th of King James II, and another of the 13th of King George II, all such as were to be naturalized were first to receive the sacrament of the Lord's supper, and to take the legal oaths to the king; whereby many persons of considerable substance, professing the Jewish religion, are prevented from being so naturalized. It was now therefor enacted, 'that Jews may, upon application, be naturalized by parliament, without receiving the sacrament, provided they, and all others hereafter to be naturalized, shall be absolutely subject to the disabilities expressed in an act of the 1st of king George I, (recited in its place); and also who shall have previously inhabited for three years in his majesty's dominions, without being absent above three months at any one time. Lastly, hereafter, all Jews are hereby disabled from purchasing or inheriting any advowson, or right of patronage, or presentation, or other right to any benefice, prebend, or other ecclesiastical living or promotion, school, hospital, or donative.' As no ill use could be made of this new privilege to the Jews, and as it might have drawn many persons of great substance to settle with their wealth among us, and might consequently farther promote:

the national commerce, many could not then see that it should reasonably have given any just offence to moderate and rational christians. Nevertheless, this act was repealed in the following session of parliament; for which repeal the reasons assigned were, that occasion had been taken from it to raise discontents, and to disquiet the minds of many of his majesty's subjects: wherefor it was now repealed to all intents and purposes.

The following account of the trade of South-Carolina, transmitted this year, is well worth recording, viz.

Exports and imports of Charlestown from the 12th of November 1752 to the 12th of July 1753.

| Exported.     |                 | Imported.                       |  |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Rice, - -     | 31,418 barrels. | Rum, 921 hogsheds, 30 tierces,  |  |
| Pitch, - -    | 13,814          | 93 barrels.                     |  |
| Tar, - -      | 6,221           | Sugar, 113 hogsheds, 5 tierces, |  |
| Turpentine,   | 3,808           | 160 barrels, 65 baskets.        |  |
| Beef, - -     | 263             | Indian corn, 63,315 bushels.    |  |
| Pork, - - -   | 234             | Negroes, 511.                   |  |
| Deer skins, - | 203 hogsheds.   | Flour, 3425 barrels.            |  |
| Lumber, -     | 591,412 feet.   | Salt, 9463 bushels.             |  |
| Shingles, -   | 581,020 pieces. | Madeira wine, 230 hogsheds,     |  |
| Cask-staves,  | 78,932          | 44 barrels.                     |  |

They export from Carolina quantities of fine oranges and lemons,\* of various kinds, to the more northern plantations on the continent; and this would be a great branch of their trade, if those fruits could keep cross the Ocean to Great Britain; but it seems (after frequent trials) they cannot generally effect it. There are sundry kinds of drugs produced in, and exported from Carolina, though not mentioned or particularized in this summary account; which, however, may be sufficient to give a tolerable idea of the increasing trade of that fine province.

A paragraph from the Dublin newspapers, in November in this year 1753, observes, that by a late accurate survey and computation, there have been found no fewer than 4000 new houses erected (i. e. on new foundations) in that city and suburbs since the year 1711, mostly to the south and west of the town. In England (adds that news writer) Liverpool, Sheffield, Manchester, Leeds, and Birmingham, have increased more in proportion, in the said forty-two years. He might have added Bristol, also greatly increased, as also Glasgow, and other places. This increase, however, of Dublin, is indeed very great; and if, as it is generally remarked, there are eight persons, one with an-

\* No oranges or lemons are now exported from Carolina, which on the contrary receives those fruits from the West-India islands. There is no mention of indigo in this account; but so soon after it as the year 1757 there were 754,218 pounds of that article shipped from Charlestown. *M.*

other, in every house in Dublin, then this increase amounts to 32,000 persons in forty-two years time.

The increase of Manchester, Sheffield, Birmingham, Froom, Leeds, Bristol, Liverpool, Glasgow, &c. has proceeded principally from our general increase in manufactures and foreign commerce; Dublin partly by that, and also by the great resort to it, as being the seat of government, and by the increase of luxury in an enormous degree. The other places, by their woollen, linen, and iron, &c. manufactures; and from the vast increase of the foreign trade and navigation of Bristol, Liverpool, Hull, Glasgow, &c.

In the compass of this same year 1753, there entered the port of Marseilles 1264 ships.

And into the port of Cadiz about 1100 ships.\*

1754.—The year 1754 gave birth to one of the noblest designs for the improvement of the general commerce of Great Britain which could possibly have been devised, viz. the voluntary society for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce; its sole object being purely and most disinterestedly the improvement of ingenious and commercial arts, for exciting emulation and industry, by honorary and pecuniary rewards. It was set on foot by means of the late Lord Folkestone, Lord Romney, the late reverend and excellent Dr. Stephen Hales, and a few other private gentlemen: and as there were already two societies of a similar kind in Scotland and Ireland, this society confined its premiums solely to that part of Great Britain called England, and to our own colonies, plantations, and settlements, in America, Africa, and Asia. This noble society immediately began to advertise premiums for the encouragement of young people of both sexes in the arts of drawing and designing; for the encouragement also of our planters in America in raising all the rich and precious productions of Spanish and Portuguese America, as well as of Asia and Africa. Its utility suddenly began to be so well perceived, that many noblemen and eminent gentlemen, merchants, traders, &c. became members and subscribers to it, to the number of considerably above 1000 persons. Their present constitution consists of one president, eight vice-presidents, a secretary, and a register, annually elected. Every person desiring to be a member, must be proposed by some member at one meeting, who must give in his name, &c. signed by himself, and must be balloted for at a succeeding meeting; and if two thirds of the said meeting be for admitting him, he shall be deemed a perpetual member, on payment of twenty guineas, or else a subscribing member, on payment of any year

\* In April 1753 the dividend of the bank of England was reduced from five to four and a half per cent, per annum; the lowest rate at which the dividends of the bank have ever been, and at which they continued till October 1764. [*Account inserted in the appendix to Allardyce's Address to the proprietors of the bank.*] M.

ly sum not less than two guineas: yet all noblemen, and also some gentlemen, subscribe five guineas each, and others four, or three guineas yearly. They have now no single treasurer, all their money being lodged at the bank of England, to be drawn out as wanted. All questions are determined either by holding up of hands, or by ballot, if insisted on. They generously invite all mankind to propose subjects for their encouragement, and when approved of by a committee, and confirmed by a general meeting, the matters proposed, with their premiums, are annually published in newspapers, &c. and all possible partiality in the distribution of premiums is carefully obviated, by concealing the claimants names, and appointing committees for the strict examination of their merits, and occasionally consulting the most skilful artists. Their meetings are well attended, a laudable zeal being by all exerted for the improvement of the fine arts, as well as of manufactures and commerce. From such truly noble and disinterested intentions, and such an extensive plan for the advancement of the wealth, power, and glory, of their country, what may not reasonably be hoped for. May they increase more and more, both in the number of their members, and in their revenue; in which all lovers of their country will surely cordially join their ardent wishes.

A mercantile author, under the year 1754, justly enough remarks the uncertainty of exactly computing the number of the trading shipping of England: but when he conjectures they may be about 2000 ships in foreign trade, amounting in tonnage to about 170,000 tons, And about the like number of coasting vessels, which may contain in tonnage about

|         |   |  |
|---------|---|--|
| 170,000 | - | 150,000  |
|         | - | <hr style="width: 100px; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> |
|         | - | 320,000  |

Total tonnage, by his account, - 320,000  
 he is surely short of the mark in both respects, more especially in the coasting tonnage, considering the great number of colliers ships, large and small.

When I was at Bristol in the year 1743, I took some pains in inquiring at their custom-house concerning their foreign and coasting trades, and the general answer was, that Bristol had upwards of 400 ships, greater and lesser, employed in foreign trade, including their trade to Ireland; but the number of coasters they could not ascertain, but only said, that they were undoubtedly very many. Since that time, it is said, that Liverpool has gained ground, in some trades, of Bristol, and may probably have about 300 ships in foreign trade, beside their coasters. Now, if the number of ships trading beyond sea, from all the other ports of Great Britain, or even of England alone, were exactly known, the whole may very probably amount to considerably, perhaps one half, more than 2000 ships trading beyond sea, more especially if the account given of London's shipping, which Maitland, in his Survey

of London, says was taken from the general register at the custom-house for the year 1732, and therefor an authentic one, be genuine. Moreover, as he thinks, London possesses one fourth part of the foreign trade of the whole nation, because she pays three twelfths of all the customs; then, if, as by his account of London's shipping, they amounted to 1417 ships, navigated by 21,797 seamen; and that in the year 1728, there arrived in the port of London from all parts beyond sea 1839 British ships, 213 foreign ships, and 6837 coasters, which last must generally imply they were British, surely the first computation must be far short of the tonnage, foreign and coasting, of the whole kingdom, which some conjecture to amount to at least 500,000 tons. The number, however, of London's shipping, has very considerably increased since the year 1732.

The bold and long-projected scheme of France, for hemming in our American colonies between theirs and the Ocean, by erecting a chain of forts all along the west side of our colonies as far as the bay of Mexico, began now to shew itself more openly, though in a time of profound peace. Immediately after the last peace of Aix-la-Chapelle they had instructed their Indians and Canadians to distress and plunder our Indian traders in the country about the great and far-extended river Ohio, though properly subject to the British crown, as being a conquest of the five Iroquois nations, allowed by France in the treaty of Utrecht to be under the British dominion.

It was reason enough for their purpose, that the possession of the river Ohio seemed to them absolutely requisite for their great purpose of connecting Canada with Louisiana, or the Mississippi country. For that end they now destroyed our fort in that country, after defeating Colonel Washington, whereupon they erected another in its stead, which they named Fort Du Quesne.

We had in the same year, 1754, in the public news from France, an extraordinary instance of the great increase of their East-India commerce from Port L'Orient, the station of their East-India shipping, and of all their warehouses and magazines, viz. that the sale of the cargoes of fifteen French East-India ships then amounted to about thirty-six millions of livres, or about one million and an half sterling money. And upon this occasion it was remarked, that from the year 1664, when this company was first established, to the year 1725, the course of exchange between France and the other states of Europe was generally to the disadvantage of France, because those countries supplied her with more merchandize than they took off from her: but that, ever since the year 1726, when the French East-India company, by their great importations from India, began to counterbalance the English and Dutch in that trade, the course of exchange has been generally in favour of France.

1755.—By an act of the 28th of King George II, for farther explaining, amending, &c. an act of the 23d of that king, for the encouragement of the British white-herring fishery, it was enacted, that the several allowances of three per cent, on all the principal money employed by the corporation of the free British fishery, and also the bounty of 30s per ton on their shipping, be farther continued for three years from the expiration of the former term, with some other lesser privileges now enacted, such as liberty to let to hire any of their busses to others, so as they may be employed in the fisheries only, with some other benefits relating to the tonnage bounty, and to their fishing at other stations than those directed by former acts, &c.

In this same year, by an act [28 Geo. II] for continuing, explaining, and amending, the several acts made for the further encouragement of the whale fishery, &c. it is, *inter alia*, enacted,

‘ I) That every ship employed in that fishery shall have onboard an apprentice, indentured for three years at least, for every fifty tons burthen, who shall be accounted as one of the number of men who by law ought to be onboard such ship.

‘ II) That no ship employed in the fishery, above the burthen of 400 tons, shall be entitled to a larger bounty than a ship of 400 tons would be entitled to.

‘ III) Ships under 200 tons burthen shall hereafter be intitled to the bounty of 40s per ton, as well as those of 200 tons and upwards, are intitled to it by former statutes.’

On the first of November, this year, the dreadful earthquake began, by which the great and mercantile city of Lisbon was almost utterly overturned and destroyed by repeated shocks for several succeeding days: whereupon the king and parliament of Great Britain, to testify their great compassion for the sufferers, and in general their great regard for the king of Portugal and his subjects, speedily sent thither £100,000 sterling, for the relief of the distressed surviving inhabitants of Lisbon, in money and provisions.

During the course of the year 1755 we were advised from Port L’Orient, that no fewer than twenty-five French East-India company’s ships had sailed thence for India and China, which shews the vast increase of the French East-Indian commerce in a few years.

The English East-India company’s disputes with the French company in India, which had brought on the loss of Fort St. George, our principal settlement there (though afterward restored by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle) having occasioned a large debt on that company in India, their necessary payments also of many subsidies to the nabobs and other great officers in India, for keeping them in their interest, together with the military force they were at this time obliged to keep up in India, altogether induced the company about the end of the year 1755 to re-



duce their dividend from eight to six per cent per annum, to take place at midsummer 1756, though twenty-one of their ships arrived safe from India in the course of this year with cargoes valued above two millions sterling.

1756.—On Tuesday the 18th of May 1756, war was declared by the king of Great Britain against France.

On the 29th of June, Fort St. Philip, the only defensible place in the island of Minorca, surrendered to the French.

This year several good laws were passed for supporting the war against France, and for the encouragement and regulation of the British commerce and navigation in general, viz.

The 5th public act, to enable foreigners to serve as military officers in America.

The 11th, for supplying mariners onboard ships of war and merchant ships.

The 15th, for granting bounties on British and Irish linens exported.

The 23d, for encouraging the fisheries in Scotland.

The 26th, for securing and encouraging the trade of the sugar colonies in America.

The 33d, for regulating the wages of workmen in the woollen manufacture.

The 34th, for the encouragement of seamen, and the more speedy manning of the royal navy.

All which, though of a public nature, are not so important as to be even barely abridged in so general a work as ours.

1757.—By an authentic account of the amount of the linen cloth, stamped for sale in Scotland from the 1st of November 1756 to the 1st of November 1757, it amounts to 9,764,408 $\frac{1}{2}$  yards, valued at £401,511:9 sterling: and in the year 1757, the manufacture had been increased 1,217,255 $\frac{1}{4}$  yards, valued at £33,789:18 more than in the preceding year.

This was a very scarce year all over Europe for wheat and sundry other provisions, whereby the poor of Great Britain suffered not a little in their daily sustenance, and persons of middling circumstances were put to a considerable additional expense, in consequence of which the following statutes were enacted, viz.

An act to prohibit, for a time to be limited, the exportation of corn, malt, meal, flour, bread, biscuit, and starch.

An act to discontinue, for a limited time, the duties upon corn and flour imported, &c.

An act to prohibit the exportation of corn, grain, meal, malt, flour, beef, pork, bacon, &c. from America, unless to Great Britain or Ireland, and to permit the importation thereof into Great Britain and Ireland in neutral ships, &c.

An act to continue the last-named act, for discontinuing the duties upon corn and flour imported, &c.

Also an act for continuing an act of this same session, to prohibit, for a limited time, the making of low wines and spirits from wheat, barley, malt, &c. or from any meal or flour.

1758.—By a statute of the next session of parliament, the above statutes for remedying the dearth of corn and other provisions, are farther prolonged to the 24th of December 1758.

And by another statute of the same year, the importation of salted beef, pork, and butter, into Great Britain from Ireland, at the time of so great a dearth of all kinds of provisions, was permitted for six months from midsummer 1758, free from the payment of all subsidies, customs, &c. excepting  $\frac{1}{3}$  per cwt. for such beef and pork imported, and  $4d$  per cwt. on salted butter; (altered next session to  $\frac{3}{4}$  per barrel for salted beef, pork, or butter; and  $\frac{1}{3}$  per cwt. for dried beef tongues, or dried hogs meat) in order to be adequate to the duty payable for such quantity of salt as is requisite in curing and salting thereof. [31 Geo. II, c. 28.]

In the same session was passed an act for the due making of bread; and to regulate the price and assize thereof; and to punish persons who shall adulterate meal, flour, or bread. This act was principally occasioned by accounts daily published of certain bakers mixing lime, alum, and other unwholesome ingredients, in that time of scarcity, in their bread. The legislature therefor took that matter into their serious consideration, and took this opportunity likewise of examining an act of the 51st of King Henry III, intituled, *Affixa panis et cerevisiæ*, (i. e. the assize of bread and ale) and another act of the 8th year of Queen Anne, to regulate the price and assize of bread; whereby so much of the former act as related to the assize of bread was repealed. The act of Queen Anne, with several alterations and amendments made thereto by some subsequent acts, was continued till the 24th of June 1757, and to the end of the then next session of parliament. This present statute, therefor, reduced into one act all the several laws in force, relating to the due making, and to the prices and assize, of bread, all preceding statutes being thereby repealed: and new tables for the assize and prices of the various kinds of bread were therein promulgated, as also what relates to the prices of the three sorts of wheat, wheaten, and household flour, of rye and rye-meal; of barley and barley-meal; of oats and oat-meal; of white peas and white pea-flour or meal; and of beans and bean-flour. Sundry clauses were also added, for preventing frauds in the prices of corn, flour, and meal; and for punishing bakers who mix different sorts of flour or meal in their bread, or put into their bread any unwholesome ingredients. [31 Geo. II, c. 29.]

The harbour of Dover still wanting additional improvements, which, it is too much to be apprehended, it will ever want, notwithstanding

sundry former statutes for that end, and particularly that of the 11th and 12th of King William III, whereby several duties were laid on coals and on ships and vessels, for raising a sum, not exceeding £30,100; that of the 2d of Queen Anne, and the 2d and 4th of King George I, &c.) and the trustees for Dover harbour having borrowed £3000 more on the duties in those acts specified, which is not as yet repaid; and as it would tend greatly to the preservation of his majesty's ships of war, and to the protection and encouragement of trade, that the said harbour should be effectually repaired; but the money arising by the rates and duties granted for that end not being sufficient, it was therefor now enacted, that after the expiration of the former term, one moiety of the former rates and duties should be continued for the term of 21 years longer, applicable to the support of Dover harbour, and for discharging the debt of £3000, &c. It is much to be wished, though little to be expected, that this harbour, so happy in point of situation, may at length answer the great expense bestowed on it.

Sundry other useful statutes were made in the same session of parliament; as,

For the benefit and encouragement of seamen employed in the royal navy, and for establishing a regular method for the punctual, frequent, and certain, payment of their wages, and for enabling them more easily and readily to remit the same for the support of their wives and families; and for preventing frauds and abuses attending such payments. [31 *Geo. II*, c. 10.]

An act for applying a sum of money towards carrying on the works for fortifying and securing the harbour of Milford in the county of Pembroke. The preamble thereof sets forth, that this harbour is more conveniently situated for fitting out fleets, and stationing cruisers, than any other harbour in this kingdom; and from the many great local advantages attending it, would, if properly fortified and secured, greatly tend to facilitate the naval operations of this kingdom, hitherto too frequently retarded, and sometimes entirely frustrated, from the want of such a port of equipment. £10,000 was therefor to be issued for making a beginning to the work, and for purchasing necessary lands, &c. for that end; much to the credit of our own age, after having so long and often talked of it in this and the preceding century. It is allowed to be the very best haven in Great Britain; since, according to those who have surveyed it, 1000 sail of ships may safely ride in it at a convenient distance from each other; it has thirteen roads, sixteen creeks, and five bays, all known by their respective names; its situation is most happy, by being without the channel, which gives it such an advantage over Portsmouth and Plymouth, as will overbalance any expense which its fortifying, &c. may occasion, more especially in time of any war with the more southern nations of Europe. [31 *Geo. II*, c. 37.]

An act for vesting certain messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, for better securing his majesty's docks, ships, and stores, at Portsmouth, Chatham, and Plymouth, and for fortifying the town of Portsmouth, and the citadel of Plymouth, in trustees, for certain uses; and for other purposes therein mentioned. [31 Geo, II, c. 38.]

By a statute of the year following, compensation was to be made to the proprietors of such lands as were purchased for the purposes of this act.

About this time, an ingenious piece was published at Paris, intitled, *Les intérêts de la France mal entendus* (the true interest of France not rightly understood), principally designed for promoting the husbandry and agriculture of that kingdom, alleged, very truly by the author, to have been too much neglected, both in the reign of the present French king, and also by his predecessor Louis XIV, for the sake of manufactures and of military glory, while the French remained dependent on England for their very bread or corn: he supposes, for argument's sake, the value of the riches of France to be one thousand millions of livres, which would produce 50 millions of livres yearly interest, which being divided among seventeen millions of people, it would supply 59 sols (or two livres nineteen sols) towards the subsistence of each individual person. He also supposes the whole expense of every one of the said seventeen millions of people, on an average, to be 160 livres yearly, which, at 10½d sterling per livre, is, in English money, L7 \*. Upon this supposition, France, for supplying her full subsistence, should receive from its agriculture the yearly value of 2720 millions of livres, unless supplied by art and industry. Of the seventeen millions of people, he supposes twelve millions to reside in cities and great towns, while the country wants people to till the ground. That this defect is, in part, owing to Cardinal Richlieu's system in uniting the supreme authority in one single point, the king: whereas, before, France was divided into many sovereignties, under particular lords, which kept the people at a greater distance from each other. But now men crowd to court, from whence flow all favours. Another cause is the unequal distribution of lands; for were all the lands of France equally divided, there would be nine acres and an half for each person.

This essay is rather a curious and fanciful piece of speculation, than a scheme entirely reducible to practice; yet sundry useful inferences may be drawn, by statesmen, &c. from such politico-arithmetical essays.

This year, by the diligent and provident application of his Britannic majesty and his ministers; the good fortune of the nation, in its American provinces, began to be conspicuous against France:

By reducing the town and fort of Louisbourg, with the isles of Cape-Breton and St. John; whereby we were once more put in possession of

\* Whether he borrowed this computation from our English political writers, or not, it exactly corresponds with them in this respect. A.

the key to the trade; navigation, and fishery, of North-America. And without that key constantly remaining in our hands, or at least its not remaining in the possession of any other power, and most especially of France, neither our continental colonies, nor our Newfoundland and New-England fisheries, can ever long remain safe and prosperous.

And to add to our good fortune, the forces in the province of New-York razed the French fortress of Frontenac on lake Ontario, as also Fort du Quesne on the river Ohio, which the French had taken from us two years before, which later fort has been rebuilt by us, by the new name of Pittsburg. Both these fortresses were perfidiously built by the French, through our own supineness, on the territory of our province of New-York, and in time of peace.

Lastly, to crown the glory and felicity of this year, and just at the very close of it, a squadron of our navy, with some land forces on board, reduced the island of Goree, lying near the mouth of the river Senegal; we having some months before also taken from France their forts in that river, to which Goree was deemed a protection and security. By these two last conquests we have acquired a new and very considerable branch of commerce in possessing the entire trade for gum senega, or senegal, before solely enjoyed by the French on that river and coast, a drug extremely useful and necessary in our silk manufactures, &c. there are also sundry other useful drugs to be had there, as well as gold dust; and probably also this conquest will prove an addition to our slave trade.

Provisions still continuing dear, an act passed in the 32d year of King George II, for continuing for a farther time the prohibition of the exportation of corn, malt, meal, flour, bread, biscuit, and starch; and also to continue the prohibition of distilling low wines and spirits from wheat, barley, malt, or any other grain, meal, or flour, as also from bran.

Yet, by a subsequent act of the same session of parliament, by reason of a better crop of corn, &c. the prohibition of the exportation of corn, &c. and of the payment of any bounty on exportation thereof, were to cease after lady-day 1759.

By another statute of that session, the free importation of all sorts of live cattle from Ireland to Great Britain was permitted for the space of five years, from the 1st of May 1759, exempted from the payment of all subsidies, customs, &c.

And by the very next statute it was enacted, that the duties payable upon tallow imported from Ireland should be discontinued, from the 1st of May 1759 for the space of five years; its preamble importing, that it may tend to the ease of the public and advantage of the revenue, by reducing the high price, and encouraging the consumption, of candles in this kingdom.

By an act [32 Geo, II] for applying a sum of money granted in

this session of parliament towards carrying on the works for fortifying and securing the harbour of Milford in Pembroke-shire, a second sum of £10,000 was granted for farther carrying on the same.

The acts of the 18th and 21st years of King George II, for prohibiting the wearing and importation of cambrics and French lawns, not having proved effectual for preventing the fraudulent importation thereof; it was now enacted, that, from the 1st of August 1759, none such should be imported, unless packed in bales, cases, or boxes, covered with sack-cloth or canvas, containing each one hundred whole pieces; otherwise to be forfeited. Cambrics or French lawns should be imported for exportation only, to be lodged in the king's warehouses, and not to be delivered out but under the like security and restrictions as prohibited East-India goods. And no customs or duties whatever should be paid or secured thereon, other than half the old subsidy, which is to remain by law, after the goods are exported again, &c.

The importation of woollen broad cloth, of the manufacture of France, into any ports of the Levant seas on behalf of British subjects, being not only a manifest discouragement and prejudice to the woollen manufactures of Great Britain, but also a means of affording relief to the enemy, an act was passed for preventing their importation into the ports of the Levant sea on behalf of British subjects; and for more effectually preventing the illegal importation of raw silk and mohair-yarn into this kingdom.

' I) No such woollen goods of French manufacture shall be so imported within the limits of the charter of the English Turkey or Levant company, on account of any British subject.

' II) Nor shall any woollen broad cloth, or other British woollen goods, be imported to any place within the limits of the Turkey company's charter, except directly from this kingdom, on account of any British subject, unless the importer shall produce a certificate to the British ambassador, or the consul, vice-consul, or other proper officer appointed by the Levant or Turkey company, at the port where such goods shall be imported, upon oath from the exporter or shipper at the last place of exportation, that the same were brought or received from Great Britain. In which certificate shall be the name of the ship and of the master, as well as the time when imported; also the bill of lading from Great Britain, otherwise to be deemed French, and to be accordingly confiscated.

' III) All British merchants in Turkey shall, before exporting any goods from thence, make oath before the British ambassador, or consul, &c. that the same were not purchased with the produce of French woollen goods; and the importer thereof into Great Britain shall there also make the like oath.'

This act was occasioned by discoveries very lately made of British



subjects fraudulently shipping from Leghorn quantities of French woollen cloths for Turkey under the denomination of English, to the great detriment of the British woollen manufactures.

By the same act also provision was made against another fraudulent practice, viz. whereas the woollen manufactures of France are of late years sent to Turkey in great quantities; and the French, in return thereof, bring back raw silk and other commodities to Marseilles and other ports, which have afterward been carried thence into Italy, from whence they were afterward shipped for Great Britain in English ships, greatly to the discouragement of the British woollen manufactures and to the advancement of those of France; measures were therefor hereby laid down for preventing both these abuses. But this act was to continue in force during the war with France, and no longer.

There being an unusual scarcity of gold and silver at this time in England, partly occasioned by much money being carried out of the nation on account of our expensive wars in Germany and America, &c. and partly by the large demand for the current service of the year 1759; the bank of England, for the better accommodation of the public in their receipts and payments, in April 1759 issued cash-notes for £15 and for £10, which have proved very convenient for payments. Possibly, that bank, without any great inconveniency to themselves, and with considerable conveniency to the public, (more especially in the country, now that the forging or altering them is rendered so difficult, if not quite impossible) might issue notes as low as £5; but lower than that sum would probably be attended with real inconveniences, in a country of so extensive an inland commerce: though, as we have elsewhere observed, notes of the two incorporated Edinburgh banks, even so low as twenty shillings sterling, are circulated all over that country, and prove extremely useful in fairs, and country places.

In the month of May the fertile French West-India island of Guadaloupe, after having held out ever since February against a British sea and land force, surrendered to our troops by capitulation. It is by some computed to produce no less than 40,000 hogsheads of sugar, one year with another; but this is since known to be exaggerated.

In that same month the foreign newspapers acquainted the public, that the king of Denmark, having ordered an account to be taken of the number of men, women, and children, throughout all his dominions of Denmark, Norway, Holstein, the islands in the Baltic, and the counties of Oldenburgh and Delmenhorst in Westphalia; they amounted to 2,444,000 souls. It does not thereby appear, that his Danish majesty's subjects in Iceland are included in this census; though, considering the barrenness of that island and the cold climate, they can be but few in number.

We had public advices this year from Charlestown in South-Carolina,

of a very hopeful prospect of the progress and increase of the production of raw silk there, and in the adjoining province of Georgia, viz. in the year 1757, 1052 pound weight of raw-silk balls were received at the filature in Georgia: and the next year produced no less than 7040 pound weight thereof. And in this year there has been received at Savannah, the capital of Georgia, considerably above 10,000 pound weight of raw silk, though the season has not been favourable. This great increase of that rich, new, and valuable production in those provinces is owing to the increased number of hands in raising the same\*.

We cannot more emphatically describe the triumphs or glories of the British monarchy during this year, than by transcribing part of the congratulatory address of the lord mayor, aldermen, and commons, of the city of London, presented to his majesty on the 20th of October 1759, viz. they humbly beseech his majesty to accept of their most humble, but warmest, congratulations, upon the rapid and uninterrupted series of victories and successes, which, under the divine blessing, have attended his arms both by sea and land, within the compass of this distinguished and ever-memorable year. ‘ The reduction of Fort Du Quesne on  
‘ the Ohio; of the island of Goree in Africa; and of Guadaloupe, with  
‘ its dependencies, in the West-Indies: the repulse and defeat of the  
‘ whole French army, by a handful of infantry, in the plains of Minden; the taking of Niagara, Ticonderoga, and Crown-point; the  
‘ naval victory off Cape-Lagos; the advantages gained over the French  
‘ nation in the East-Indies; and, above all, the conquest of Quebec,  
‘ the capital of the French empire in North-America, in a manner so  
‘ glorious to your majesty’s arms, against every advantage of situation  
‘ and superior numbers, are such events as will forever render your  
‘ majesty’s auspicious reign the favourite æra in the history of Great  
‘ Britain: measures of such national concern, so invariably pursued,  
‘ and acquisitions of so much consequence to the power and trade of  
‘ Great Britain, are the noblest proofs of your majesty’s paternal affection and regard for the true interest of your kingdoms, and reflect  
‘ honour upon those whom your majesty has been pleased to admit in-  
‘ to your councils, or to intrust with the conduct of your fleets and  
‘ armies; these will ever command the lives and fortunes of a free and  
‘ grateful people, in defence of your majesty’s sacred person and royal  
‘ family, against the attempts of all your enemies,’ &c.

In the spring of the year 1758 the house of commons had appointed a committee to consider of reducing the weights, as also the measures of length and of capacity, to a perfect exactness and uniformity throughout

\* As the quantities of silk produced in Georgia, even in later years, are known from the governor’s reports to be much smaller, than what are here stated, there is reason to conclude, that these advices

were either totally erroneous, or that the writer mistook the weight of the cocoons, (apparently what he calls raw-silk balls and raw silk) for the weight of merchantable raw silk. M.

the kingdom of Great Britain. On the 2d of June, in the same year, that committee made a report of their progress; and in the following session, on the 1st of December 1758, a fresh committee was appointed for the same purpose, who took very great pains in enquiring into the original standards of weights and measures, and into the most effectual means for ascertaining and enforcing uniform and certain standards thereof, as appears by their report of the 11th and 12th of April 1759; which report was approved of by the house, and was printed and published by their order. Yet, it is much to be regretted, that hitherto nothing farther has been done therein, considering how requisite, and even necessary, such a regulation has been long thought to be, by all persons who observe the uncertainty and confusion in buying and selling all measurable commodities, as corn, wool, &c. and the frauds committed, more especially among the lower people in the retail way of business. It is, therefore, to be hoped, that the legislature, in peaceable times, will find leisure to re-consider this affair, which, though doubtless attended with difficulty, will, when effectually regulated, redound very much to the credit of the legislature, and to the benefit of the public.

Since our last account of the increase of the linen manufacture in Scotland in the year 1757, we have the following most promising accounts of the quantity thereof made and stamped for sale, viz.

|      |   | Yards.     | Value.            |
|------|---|------------|-------------------|
| 1758 | - | 10,624,435 | L424,141 : 10 : 7 |
| 1759 | - | 10,830,707 | 451,390 : 17 : 3  |

Thus, from the year 1728, the quantity has been gradually increasing from three millions of yards, to almost eleven millions.

We had the following account of the Dutch whale fishery in the year 1759, viz. that 133 ships brought home the produce of 435 whales: which may be deemed a good year for that fishery; being somewhat above  $3\frac{1}{4}$  whales for each ship.

But the Hamburgers were not so fortunate, who in 16 ships brought home but  $18\frac{1}{2}$  whales.

Ships arriving at, and departing from, the ports following, in the course of the year 1759, viz.

At Cadiz 602 ships, viz. 114 English; 155 Dutch; 195 Spanish; 19 French; 23 Portuguese; 17 Swedish; 24 Danish; 13 Genoese; 16 Imperial; 2 Venetian; 7 Neapolitan; 13 Ragusan, and 7 Maltese. This much smaller number than usual (especially of English) is owing to the present war.

At Dantzick, 626 ships arrived.

At Koningsberg (the capital of Prussia) 820 ships arrived, and 758 failed.

At Riga 671 ships arrived, and 669 failed.

From the Dutch newspapers we learned, that during the year 1759, there passed through the Sound, into the Baltic sea, 3289 ships of different nations; and 3568 ships repassed the same. Now, as by far the most of the 2117 ships, said to be arrived at the above-named three cities in the Baltic, must have been part of those 3289 ships, the remaining 1172 ships must have been mostly bound for Copenhagen, Lubbeck, Stetin, Stockholm, and Peterburgh, and probably most of them to Peterburgh, the other ports in the Baltic, (as Rostock, Wismar, Revel, Narva, &c.) being much less considerable in commerce. This, though but a short, and, in some sense, but a conjectural view of the navigation and trade to the Baltic, may, however, in some degree, enable us to form an adequate idea of it.

At Venice, in the year 1759, there arrived 1781 ships and vessels, of various kinds and sizes.

And, in the course of that year, there were born in the city of Venice 5172 children, and there died 6852 persons, which number being multiplied by 30, the usual computation of persons, of whom one dies annually in great and populous cities, will give 205,560 for the number of souls remaining alive in Venice.

1760.—A census of the people living in Rome at easter in this year was taken, whereby it appeared, that they amounted to 155,184 inhabitants, viz.

|   |   |   |      |
|---|---|---|------|
| Secular priests,                              | - | - | 2827 |
| Monks,  | - | - | 3847 |
| Nuns,   | - | - | 1910 |
| Students,                                     | - | - | 7065 |
| Poor in alms-houses,                          | - | - | 1470 |
| Negroes,                                      | - | - | 7    |
| Persons not professing the catholic religion, | - | - | 52   |

|   |         |
|---|---------|
|   | 11,178  |
| The remaining inhabitants, being laity, | 144,006 |

|        |   |                  |
|--------|---|------------------|
| Total, | - | 155,184 persons. |
|--------|---|------------------|

Which computation nearly agrees with Keyfler's.

By a farther account, there were born in Rome, between easter 1759 and easter 1760, 5318 children; and there died there 7181 persons: which last number multiplied by 30 gives the whole number of its inhabitants, viz. 215,430 persons.

Yet, on account of above 11,000 persons grown up professing celibacy, if the number dying yearly be multiplied by 22 it will come nearer the truth, or 157,982, besides those of the Jewish nation.

But this last calculation comprehended not only the 81 parishes within

the walls of that city, but likewise a circular district of five or six miles without the city ; where there are vineyards, scattered houses, &c.

A judicious pamphlet appeared in print in the month of April this year, entitled, the Interest of Great Britain considered, with regard to her colonies, &c. tending to shew the absolute expediency of retaining the entire country of Canada, as the only solid safety and security of our continental colonies. Without presuming to anticipate what our governors shall determine therein in a future treaty, we shall here only transcribe from this very able author his account of the trade of our northern colonies, compared with that of our West-India islands, taken from the following authentic accounts, laid before the board of trade and plantations, viz.

From 1744 to 1748, inclusive, exported

|  |  |
|--|--|
| To the northern colonies from Britain, | To the West-India islands, from Britain, |
|--|--|

|        |            |   |          |
|--------|------------|---|----------|
| 1744 - | L640,000 - | - | L796,000 |
| 1745 - | 534,000 -  | - | 503,000  |
| 1746 - | 754,000 -  | - | 472,000  |
| 1747 - | 726,000 -  | - | 856,000  |
| 1748 - | 830,000 -  | - | 734,000  |

|       |             |            |           |
|-------|-------------|------------|-----------|
| Total | 3,484,000 - | -          | 3,361,000 |
|       |             | Difference | 123,000   |

From 1754 to 1758, viz.

|        |             |   |         |
|--------|-------------|---|---------|
| 1754 - | 1,246,000 - | - | 685,000 |
| 1755 - | 1,177,000 - | - | 694,000 |
| 1756 - | 1,428,000 - | - | 733,000 |
| 1757 - | 1,727,000 - | - | 776,000 |
| 1758 - | 1,832,000 - | - | 877,000 |

|       |              |            |            |
|-------|--------------|------------|------------|
| Total | L7,410,000 - | -          | 3,765,000  |
|       |              | Difference | L3,645,000 |

in favour of our northern colonies.

The odd sums under L1000 are omitted, as too minute in this account.

This author observes, that the trade to our continental colonies in America is not only greater than that to our West-India colonies, but is also annually increasing with the increase of their people, and even in a greater proportion, as the people increase in wealth, and in their ability of spending, as well as in numbers. But he adds, what to us appears at least somewhat improbable, that the number of our people in the northern colonies have been observed to double in about 25 years, exclusive of the accession of strangers ; for which he also appeals to the accounts sent over to the board of trade.

The vast annual increase of our exports to the continental colonies in the last five years may probably be in part owing to the money remitted from hence in those years for the expense of our war against the French in Canada, as well as to the great increase of those colonies.

He alleges, that our exports to the single province of Pennsylvania, have, in the last twenty-eight years, increased nearly in the proportion of 17 to 1.

With respect to the trite objection, that the growth of our continental colonies may render them dangerous, in respect of the difficulty of retaining them in due subjection to the British empire; he (and we conceive every other judicious person) thinks it scarcely merits an answer, as we have fourteen separate governments there; having not only different governors, and different constitutions, but likewise different interests, and in some of them different religious persuasions: and their jealousy of each other is already so great, that however necessary an union of the colonies has long been thought by them all, for their common defence and security against their common enemies, yet they have never been able to effect it, nor even to agree in applying to their mother-country for the establishing of such an union.

Too much can scarcely be said in praise of the vast improvements made in our sister kingdom of Ireland, in respect to commerce and manufactures, since the accession of his majesty King George II to the throne of these kingdoms. An essay on the antient and modern state of Ireland, published (at Dublin and London) in this year 1760, briefly describes the same with justice and propriety, (p. 49, 50) viz. ‘ in this reign, and not before, our linen manufacture, in many respects one of the most profitable branches of our national commerce, has received all the encouragement from royal bounty, and parliamentary sanction, that could be reasonably hoped for.

‘ Persons of the highest rank, dignity, and fortune, were appointed trustees for the propagation, encouragement, and diffusion of this beneficial trade throughout the respective provinces.

‘ The linen-hall was erected in Dublin, under as just and nice regulations as any commercial house in Europe.

‘ The north of Ireland began to wear an aspect entirely new; and from being (through want of industry, business, and tillage) the almost exhausted nursery of our American plantations, soon became a populous scene of improvement, traffic, wealth, and plenty; and is at this day a well planted district, considerable for numbers of well-affected, useful, and industrious subjects.’

‘ We nowhere (abstracted from our own country) meet with such a set of pious patriots (in the ever-honourable Dublin society) from their private funds adorning their country in general, in every degree and branch of industry and improvement; and inspired with senti-



ments truly public and social, munificently rewarding their countrymen, of whatsoever denomination, without favour or distinction, for meliorating their proper estates or farms; for excelling in any production of nature or art; for any discovery or invention useful to mankind.' This society, which, for some years before, was merely a voluntary one, was incorporated in the year 1750\*.

Page 60th, 'The trade of Ireland, however in former times miserably restrained and limited, hath in this happy reign received considerable enlargements; such as, the opening of several wool-ports: the bounty on Irish linens, now our staple commodity, imported into Great Britain, and the immunity lately granted of importing thither beef, butter, tallow, candles, pork, hides, live cattle, &c. a privilege that, in its consequences, must prove of signal advantage to both nations; to this especially, as we shall hereby be enabled, upon any occasional emergency, to supply our protecting friends, and proportionably stint the hands of our enemies, who (by the profusion of wines and spiritous liquors, annually exported from France to Ireland, in exchange for our beef, butter, &c. to pass over the glut of teas and spirits, &c. smuggled thence by the western runners) have constantly the balance on their side: our exports, with those already mentioned, consist in a few cheefes, salmon, and kelp; but as our linens are, without question, become the vital spring of Irish commerce, it is matter of great concern, and equal surprize, that the other provinces do not more universally and effectually follow the lucrative example of the north, since it is evident that nothing but equal industry can be wanting to render them equally flourishing; yet the over-growth of graziers and stockmasters, is the strongest indication that can be of national waste and decay in respect of inhabitants. Would not a foreigner start, even at our humanity, as well as at our want of national wisdom and economy, on seeing the best arable grounds in the kingdom, in immense tracts, wantonly enjoyed by the cattle of a few petulant individuals, and at the same juncture our highways and streets crowded with shoals of mendicant fellow-creatures, reduced, through want of proper sustenance, to the utmost distress. Would not a Frenchman give a shrug extraordinary, at finding in every little inn, Bourdeaux claret, and Nantz brandy, though, in all likelihood, not a morsel of Irish bread. It is much to be hoped, that when the spirit of tillage shall become more general, we may have a sufficient plenty of malt liquors of our own native produce. Gardening is of late years so vastly improved amongst us, that we now have many curious plants, fruits, and flowers, never heard of in former times. Yet many intelligent persons of all ranks complain much of the want of some establishment in the:

\* Our author seems to have forgotten the splendid, numerous, and increasing, society of the same nature, established in London in the year 1754, and also another at Edinburgh. A.

' way of a national bank, to secure popular credit and the kingdom  
' from the various alarming shocks it is so frequently incident to, on ac-  
' count of the failure of particular or private banks.'

From Ireland we have farther received the following disagreeable ac-  
counts, from a judicious private hand, viz.

Since the year 1757 the exportation of their linens has been gradu-  
ally lessening, and the following is its state for two years past, viz.

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| Linens of all sorts exported for one year, ended at lady-day 1759, |                              |
| 14,093,431 yards, which valued, at a medium, at 16d                |                              |
| per yard, comes to -   | £939,562 1 4                 |
| Ditto in 1760, 13,375,456 $\frac{1}{4}$ yards, valued at ditto     |                              |
| per yard, -  | 891,697 1 8                  |
| <hr/>  |                              |
| 717,974 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards, decreased.                            | Val-                         |
|  | ued at ditto, - £47,864 19 8 |

Possibly the annual increase of the linen manufacture of Scotland  
may partly, if not entirely, account for this decrease in Ireland.

The quantity of Irish linens so exported is exclusive of what is con-  
sumed within that kingdom. And the quantity of linen yarn annually  
exported to Great Britain is nearly equal in value to the yarn that is  
wove into the exported linens.

The supplies, granted by the parliament of Great Britain for the ser-  
vice of the year 1760, amounted to the vast sum of £15,503,564 : 15 : 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

In the former part of this year (1760) the Dutch East-India company  
divided 15 per cent among their proprietors, for the preceding year's  
dividend. And as that company's capital stock usually sold at from 397  
per cent to 410, we will suppose 400 per cent to be the mean price, for  
the sake of a round number, then the purchasers at this time made 3 $\frac{3}{4}$   
per cent of their money, which, considering the fluctuating state of such  
trading societies, proceeding from various losses, &c. is far from an al-  
luring dividend.

In this same year we were informed, that the Dutch West-India com-  
pany divided 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent for one year past, their long decayed stock  
usually selling at from 32 to 33 per cent. These dividends being duly  
considered, we are not to think it strange that the monied people of  
Holland are so deeply concerned in the British national funds, even  
though at the low interest of 3 per cent, as the interest is so certainly  
and punctually paid, without any risk or expense, except the fluctuation  
of the market prices of the funds, and the commission to their agents  
here \*.

The high prices of spiritous liquors manufactured in Great Britain,  
wisely occasioned by some late statutes, having greatly lessened the con-

\* According to an account of the prices during nine months of this year, which I have received  
from Holland, East-India stock was from 382 to 413; and West-India stock from 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ , to 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ . A.

sumption thereof, among the commonalty, and thereby contributed very much to their health, sobriety, and industry; for the prevention of the return of former mischiefs, an act of parliament passed in this 33d year of King George II, for preventing the excessive use of spiritous liquors, by laying additional duties thereon; and for encouraging the exportation of British-made spirits, &c. which law has further contributed to the same salutary end.

Sundry other good laws were made in this session of parliament, for the ease of commerce, and conveniency and safety of the people; such as that for extending the time limited for the importation of salted beef, pork, and butter, from Ireland; for removing the gunpowder magazine from Greenwich, where it was so dangerous, to Purfleet, a place of greater safety; enlarging and improving the fortifications and docks of Portsmouth, Chatham, and Plymouth; for preventing frauds relating to the customs, and granting liberty to export rice from Carolina, directly to any part of Europe south of Cape Finisterre, in ships navigated according to law; and that for widening certain streets, lanes, &c. in the city of London, and for opening certain new streets, and clearing away sundry nuisances therein, for the conveniency of carriages and passengers, insomuch that this city already begins to wear a new and more elegant face, by its old and narrow gates being removed, new and airy openings made, and many more intended; whereby, it is to be hoped, the most wealthy citizens will no longer have reason to remove into the western suburbs, for free and fresh air, but will end their days with comfort and satisfaction, in the places where Providence had blessed their industry with plentiful fortunes.

This year the king established a corporation at Fort-Marlborough, near Bencoolen in the island of Sumatra in the East-Indies, by the name of the mayor and aldermen of Fort-Marlborough. But the place was surprised by the French in the same year.

On the 8th of September 1760 the town of Montreal, together with the rest of Canada, was surrendered by the French governor, Vaudreuil, to General Amherst, commander in chief of the British forces.

From this acquisition, how vast an addition of territory has accrued to the British empire in America, how much greater safety and security have our antient colonies hereby obtained, by removing from behind them so enterprising, restless, and shamelessly perfidious, a nation? and, which is of much more importance to us, hereby also we become possessed of the whole of the fur and peltry trade of that continent, in exchange for our coarse woollen and other manufactures, iron tools of many kinds, kitchen and household furniture, with other copper and brass utensils, lead shot, gunpowder, firelocks, swords, &c. but we wish we could not add rum, in great quantities, so greatly debauching the morals, &c. of the Indians. How great an increase of our national

commerce, then, must this acquisition be, even in our days? and how much more will it probably be in future ages, when our Indian traders, and wood-rangers, will undoubtedly discover many new nations to traffic with, very far back in that vast country, until they at length, and it is to be hoped very soon, shall open a way to the ocean of Japan and China? a discovery which, in the womb of Providence, may, and probably will, be attended with great, and perhaps very surprising, alterations in the course of commerce; a discovery too, which will infallibly enable us to determine the so long controverted, and so frequently in vain attempted, point of a north-west passage by sea to the eastern parts of Asia, and the extreme western parts of America, by a shorter and safer course than from Hudson's bay, without any future attempts from so miserable a shore, where it is at present so unlikely ever to be found. And well worth any reasonable expense it will be found to be, to set about such a western journey, with Indian guides, as soon as possible.

The north end of Sweden, known by the name of Lapmark, adjoining to Lapland, has very lately been so much improved and civilized, that in the diet of Sweden, at the close of this year 1760, the speaker of the house of peasants, or farmers, tells their king, in expression of their gratitude for his goodness, and care of that northern part of his dominions, 'that those parts which have hitherto remained wild, uncultivated, and mostly uninhabited, wear at present a quite different face, being now covered with dwellings, and their lands cultivated; and, for the first time, says he, since the creation of the world, this new people appear in the diet with us, by their representatives.' How would it rejoice our hearts to see our dear country extend its bounds more and more, by the draining of morasses, and other lands covered with water, and by the peopling of deserts.'

The linen manufacture of Scotland continues to increase rapidly, as appears by the returns of linen stamped for sale, besides which a very large quantity is made by families for their own use.

|                                     | Yards.      | Value.        |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| In the year 1759 there were stamped | 10,830,707. | L451,390 17 3 |
| 1760, - - -                         | 11,747,728. | 523,153 10 4  |
| Increased in the year 1760, - - -   | 917,021.    | 71,762 13 1   |

The following is a brief sketch of the present state of the most populous cities and towns of the kingdom, besides London, the various improvements of which have been more particularly noted in the progress of our work.

Bristol is universally allowed to be the largest city in Great Britain, next after London. The anonymous author of England's gazetteer, published in 1751, makes it to contain 13,000 houses, and 95,000 souls.

When the author of this work was there in the year 1758, he perambulated it for two days, and from a near examination of the number of

houses on new foundations, and even of entire new streets, erected since the year 1751, he imagined he could not hesitate in concluding it to contain about 100,000 souls, or to be about the magnitude of that part of London, which is contained within the antient walls. It is confessed, that London, within that limited compass, appears to be more populous, or to have more people appearing abroad in the streets; but that we apprehend to be occasioned chiefly by its communication with its vastly-extended suburbs, its immense commerce and shipping, the greater resort of foreigners, and the near residence of the court, nobility, gentry, and lawyers; whereas, in the streets of Bristol, which are more remote from the harbour and shipping, the inhabitants are mostly either private families, living on their means, or else manufacturers and workmen of many various kinds, employed mostly within doors. We have met with some Irish gentlemen who will needs have the city of Dublin to be larger than Bristol, for which they allege the like reason, as above-mentioned, for London within the walls; and to which, we conceive, it may be answered, that Dublin, being the residence of the chief governors, of all the public officers, of the guards, the nobility and gentry with their numerous retinues, and of the courts of justice, as well as of the parliaments, these may occasion a greater appearance of people in its streets, without her being really larger than Bristol.

Edinburgh, being the usual residence of the courts of justice of Scotland, of the police, the boards of customs and excise, of lawyers attending on pleas, besides merchants, manufacturers, &c. and of a learned and well-frequented university; with all its suburbs, and its port of Leith, may fairly be allowed to contain at least 60,000 inhabitants.

Norwich is by many thought to contain upwards of 7500 houses, many of which are crowded with inmates of manufacturing people; if therefor eight people be allowed on an average to each house, it may contain 60,000 souls. Or if, according to others, there be only 7000 houses, and that seven persons to each house be sufficient, then 49,000 may be nearly the number of its inhabitants. But we conjecture the first computation is nearest to the truth. We may here, by way of corollary, remark, that Norwich has, for many ages, and more especially for two centuries past, been very eminent for the noblest manufacture of the finest stuffs in the world, of various kinds, with which it not only supplies our own people in immense quantities, but likewise most foreign nations, and also our American colonies, whereby the manufacturers accumulate much wealth.

Manchester in Lancashire, merely as a town, though without being so much as a corporation, is probably next in number of inhabitants, and abounds so much with great variety of excellent manufactures of cottons, tickens, &c. as to employ many thousands of journeymen-weavers, beside other workmen, women, and children, constantly em-

ployed, both for the foreign and home demand of those goods: inso-much that Manchester is swelled to the bulk of a great city, being supposed to contain from 40 to 45,000 people.

Liverpool, in the same county, in point of a vastly-extended foreign commerce and mercantile shipping, is long since become undoubtedly the greatest and most opulent sea-port in the kingdom, next to London and Bristol, employing about 300 sail of ships mostly in the Guinea and American trades, and is now said to be thrice as large and populous as it was at the accession of William and Mary to the crown. In short, this prosperous town extends its commerce to all parts not occupied by exclusive companies, and is thought to contain at this time from 30 to 35,000 inhabitants.

Birmingham, in Warwickshire, though still also, like Manchester, an unincorporated town, has, through the general increase of our national commerce, gradually grown up, more especially of later years, to the magnitude of a considerable city, by means of its vast, numerous, and most ingenious, manufactures of iron, steel, and brass, or hard-ware, in an almost-endless variety, such as enamelled and polished steel snuff-boxes, keys, locks, hinges, buckles, buttons, &c. not only for supplying ourselves and our own foreign plantations, but almost all the rest of the world therewith. This very busy place is reckoned to contain at least 30,000 inhabitants.

In much the same sort of employment has the populous town of Sheffield been more or less famous for above four centuries past, partly by means of the iron stone in its vicinity, but of late much more by the general increase of the nation's foreign commerce. It has been peculiarly famous for the manufacture of knives and other cutlery-ware, as far back as the poet Chaucer's time, (in the reign of King Edward III) their knives being by that poet, as still by the common people farther north, called whittles. There are above 600 master-cutlers there, who are a corporation, by the name of the cutlers of Hallamshire, of which district in Yorkshire, Sheffield is the principal town. It is reputed to be two miles in length and one in breadth, and to employ about 40,000 persons in the iron manufactures, though not all living within the town. They have likewise a considerable trade in this town for corn and alum; and are more particularly noted for making the best files and other iron tools for various handicrafts. Yet so little curious are its inhabitants in speculative researches, that we have not been able to learn with any precision the probable number of the inhabitants of so populous a town, as distinguished from the rest of Hallamshire, though, from sundry circumstances, they may very probably be considerably above 20,000.

Newcastle upon Tyne has been eminent for several centuries past for its almost inexhaustible staple of pit-coal, called at London sea-coal, be-



cause carried thither only by sea. It supplies not only London and many other parts of the kingdom with that most necessary fuel, but likewise sundry foreign countries, mostly in its own strong and numerous shipping, the loading of which, from the pits to the ships at Shields, employs five or six thousand men called keelmen: here is also a great manufacture of glass bottles, and another of hard-ware or wrought iron of many sorts. It is also noted for its grind-stones, of which great quantities are exported beyond sea. But, beyond all other national benefits, the coal-trade of this town is peculiarly and eminently useful on any emergency, for its great number of thorough-bred mariners for manning the navy. It has long been a very populous place, and, including its suburbs of Gateshead and North and South Shields, may probably contain near 40,000 inhabitants.

Glasgow is a beautiful and increasing city of Scotland, abounding in many profitable manufactures, more especially of the linen kind, in great variety and beauty. It has also a great number of good shipping trading (from its port called Port-Glasgow, and from Greenock), as well to our West-India sugar isles, as also to our continental colonies, more especially to our two tobacco provinces: whereby it is now said to be arrived to the magnitude of 26 to 27,000 inhabitants, who are generally reckoned eminent for industry and a prudent economy.

These, with London, we apprehend to be all the cities and towns of Great Britain, which contain upward of 20,000 inhabitants within their respective liberties, boundaries, and precincts. Yet there are many other cities and towns of England which nearly approach to that number.

From our correspondent in Ireland, we have the following account of the present state of the principal cities in that island.

Dublin, in the year 1760, contained 13,461 houses, which number, allowing 7 persons to each house (which is probably very near the truth) gives 94,227 people\*.

Cork contained 8268, and, by the same computation, 57,876 inhabitants. It has long been famous for a vast exportation of salted beef, pork, and butter, chiefly to our own sugar colonies. Cheese and hides are also exported from Cork.

Limerick, on the great river Shannon, conveniently situated for the western trades, contained 3640 houses and 25,480 inhabitants.

\* All the mortality-bills of Dublin, which we have seen, come short of 2000 persons yearly, which number multiplied even by 33 (the healthiest number) gives but 66,000. But there is reason to believe that the mortality-bills of Dublin, and of other places also, are very defective. A.

Waterford, a considerable trading port on the east side of Ireland, contained 3284 houses and 22,988 inhabitants\*.

\* The author of the *New geography of Ireland* Dublin to be 19,352; Cork 8726; Limerick (*Dublin* 1752) states the number of houses in 3959; and Waterfoord 2637. A.

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*As the subsequent part of Mr. Anderson's 'Historical and chronological work,' which is carried forward to the year 1762, contains very little commercial information, it was thought proper to conclude it here, and to begin my own continuation with the commencement of the reign of his present Majesty. M.*

ANNALS

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OF

COMMERCE,

MANUFACTURES, FISHERIES, AND NAVIGATION,

WITH

BRIEF NOTICES OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES CONNECTED WITH THEM.

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PART III,

CONTAINING THE COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE AND OTHER COUNTRIES,  
FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE REIGN OF HIS PRESENT MAJESTY,

GEORGE III,

KING OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND,

TO THE MEETING OF THE UNION PARLIAMENT IN JANUARY 1801;

*Composed from Materials of unquestionable Authenticity (mostly unpublished), extracted  
from the Records of Parliament, the Accounts of the Customhouse, the  
Mint, the Board of Trade, the Post-Office, the East-India  
Company, the Bank of England, &c. &c.*

BY

DAVID MACPHERSON.

ANNALS

COMMITTEE

MANUFACTURING

CHARTER

THE

CENTRAL BANK

OF THE UNITED STATES

AND

THE

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329

# A N N A L S

OF

## C O M M E R C E.

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A. D. 1760.

GEORGE the Second, king of Great Britain, died on the 25th day of October 1760, and was succeeded by his grandson, George prince of Wales.

In the reign of George II the agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, of Britain were greatly improved. The roads throughout the kingdom were put in a much better condition than they had ever been in before, and the navigation of several rivers \* was improved, whereby various parts of the country were enabled to have a regular and convenient mutual intercourse; and *internal trade*, an object still more important than foreign trade, was greatly facilitated. These great improvements appear to have been in no degree checked, but rather to have been in a state of progressive advancement, during the extensive war which raged in the last years of George II †.

Accounts were received of an alarming insurrection of the negro slaves in the parishes of St. Mary's, St. Elizabeth's, and St. Thomas in the east, in Jamaica. Many white people were killed, many plantations laid desolate by the insurgents, vast numbers of the unhappy negroes were destroyed, and that opulent and flourishing colony was in imminent danger of total ruin, before the exertions of the military and the militia, with the assistance of the fleet, were able to quell this desperate attempt of the wretched slaves to recover their liberty.

\* The vast benefits flowing from the creation (if I may be allowed the expression) of new rivers, or artificial canals, were only beginning to be understood as yet in Britain.

† The advancing prosperity of the kingdom in this reign has been clearly and forcibly illustrated by Mr. Chalmers, in his *Estimate of the comparative strength of Great Britain*, ed. 1794.

To prevent the dreadful alarm, which the news of the insurrection must have excited at home, General Dalling, lieutenant-governor of Jamaica, prudently withheld all communication of the commencement of it from being sent to Britain, till he was enabled also to announce that the danger was over \*.

The governors of the British forts on the coast of Africa, belonging to the African company, sent home heavy complaints of the Dutch governor of Elmina, for forcibly monopolizing the trade with the Portuguese vessels upon the coast to the westward of the river Volta, which the Dutch affirmed they had a right to do by treaty with the Portuguese. In subsequent letters the same governors complained of constant endeavours and arts practised by the Dutch to stir up the natives against the British interest.

Great efforts had been made, and great sums had been expended, to collect settlers from various parts of Europe and America to cultivate the province of Nova Scotia. But government seemed now to be weary of the great demands for the support of that unproductive colony, and resolved to be more sparing in their grants for the future. The expense of the civil establishment for the province in the year 1759, was £11,568:2; for this year, £11,785:6:10; and the estimate for the ensuing year (1761) was made up at £9,095:12:9, with *perhaps* an allowance of £1000 for contingencies.

A most pernicious illegal trade had been for some time carried on between the British colonies in North America and the French settlements in the West-Indies, and on the rivers Mobile and Mississippi, under the sanction of flags of truce, whereby the French were supplied with the provisions and lumber of North America, so indispensably necessary for carrying on their plantations, and moreover with large sums in money in payment of their produce and of the manufactures of France, the balance of the trade being greatly in favour of the French.

Such practices being in open contempt of the authority of Great Britain, Mr. Secretary Pitt (afterwards earl of Chatham) had written (23d August) to the several governors of North America, directing them to use their utmost efforts to detect and punish all persons concerned in so iniquitous a traffic †.

The vast advantages of inland water-carriage began to be considered in England in the reigns of Charles I and Charles II ‡, and several improvements upon the navigation in the natural beds of rivers were attempted during the reigns of these two princes. In the succeeding

\* In November 1760 he wrote, that it was almost suppressed; and in the beginning of January 1761 he wrote, that the disturbances were entirely at an end.

† I was credibly informed of at least one instance of a man, whose official duty it was to pre-

vent illicit trade, being deeply engaged in this scandalous commerce.

‡ In the year 1675, an author, who takes only the name of R. S. published *Avona, or a view of making rivers in this kingdom navigable*.



reigns, though they were not entirely lost sight of, they were not much attended to, till the reign of George II. In the year 1755 the commercial and enterprising inhabitants of Liverpool began to turn their attention to this most important object. For the benefit of an easier conveyance of coals from the pits at St. Helen's near Prescot, they obtained an act of parliament for rendering navigable Sankey brook, which runs near St. Helen's, and falls into the Mersea below Warrington: But when they came to examine the ground more attentively, they found it would be better to make an entire new canal with proper locks, which would be exempted from the inconveniencies of land-floods, &c. ; and it was accordingly executed on that more judicious plan, the brook being only used to feed the canal, which is twelve miles long, with a fall of ninety feet ; and it is, if I mistake not, the first canal with locks that ever was constructed in Great Britain. In the same year, they employed two surveyors to examine the ground for a proposed junction of the Mersea with the Trent on the opposite side of the country ; a grand idea, which however was not carried into execution till several years after, as will be observed in proper time.

But the first important work of this nature in Great Britain was planned and happily accomplished by the duke of Bridgewater, who may truly be said to have the real honour, if not of introducing inland navigation, at least of rendering it an object of universal attention, which has been attended with the happy effect of diffusing that most capital species of improvement throughout the whole kingdom. The duke had a large mountain of coal upon his estate at Worsley in Lancashire, which the great expense of carriage to a market rendered an useless possession to him. He therefor conceived the idea of procuring a cheap conveyance by water to the large and populous manufacturing town of Manchester, for which purpose he obtained two acts of parliament in the years 1758 and 1759 \*. While he was concerting his plan, he perceived, encouraged, and availed himself of, the wonderful talents of the uneducated, but heaven-taught engineer, Brindley ; by whose ingenuity, with the abundant supply of materials from his own lands, and a vast expenditure of money for labour, he completed a navigable canal of twenty-nine miles in length, with about four feet and a half of depth of water, without any locks ; the inequalities of the ground, and the intervention of rivers and public roads, being surmounted by stupendous mounds of earth ; by a tunnel cut through a hill fifty feet under the surface, and in some places hewed out of the solid rock ; by aqueduct bridges over the public roads ; and by, what even professional men then

\* An act had been obtained in the year 1736, for making Worsley brook navigable to its junction with the Irwell by the old method of damming up the water to make levels. But, fortunately for the present age, nothing was ever done in it, and room was thereby left for the duke of Bridgewater's grand undertaking.

pronounced impossible, an aqueduct bridge over the navigable river Irwell, at the height of thirty-eight feet above its surface, which presented to the wondering spectators the new and surprising sight of vessels sailing aloft in the air, high above other vessels sailing below in the river. As the duke's operations were carried forward with great spirit during the whole of this year, the public were gratified with the sight of the first boat passing along his magnificent aqueduct on the 17th of July 1761; and the scoffers, who, in derision of this noble effort of Brindley's bold, but unerring, genius, had called it *a castle in the air*, felt themselves ashamed. The whole work of the canal was executed in a style of solidity and grandeur, which might induce an inattentive spectator to suppose that it was made for ostentation; but a careful inspection will shew, that every part is not only proper but necessary; that economy has been happily combined with magnificence; and that the vast expense of perhaps the greatest work that ever was undertaken and executed in any part of the world at the charge of one individual, is small, when compared to the extensive utility of it.

The duke, immediately after the completion of this canal, extended the length and the benefits of his navigation as far as Liverpool; and goods are now carried on his canals between that town and Manchester at 6s a tun instead of 12s, the charge of the former navigation on the Mersea and the Irwell, or 40s, the price of the land carriage: and, while his spirited and patriotic enterprise is rewarded by a vast revenue arising from his water-carriage, and his formerly useless coal-mine, the surrounding country is benefited at least a pound for every shilling paid to the duke.

Thus the spirited commercial county of Lancaster appears to have had the glory of producing the first canal made in the kingdom in modern times, and upon the modern improved principles; of first conceiving the magnificent design of a navigable communication between the east and west sides of England through the heart of the country; and of exhibiting the first specimen of a canal executed on a grand scale. Such is the animating influence of vigorous commerce and manufactures.

The duke of Bridgewater's canal immediately attracted the attention of the public in an extraordinary degree; and the advantages of inland navigation conducted upon improved principles, and also the supposed disadvantages of it, were the subjects of general discussion.

The enemies of the new mode of conveyance objected, that the facility of canal navigation would greatly diminish the numbers of the useful and noble breed of draught horses.—A curious objection, truly, to the abridgement of an expense. A part of those horses will be employed in drawing the vessels on the canals. A part of them may be employed in drawing ploughs on grounds hitherto kept in grass for the

use of the redundant number of them, or on grounds hitherto useless for want of manure, in order to raise corn, &c. to increase the breed of men, whose numbers in all countries are exactly in proportion to the means of subsistence: and men, industrious men, not horses, constitute the true riches and strength of a well-regulated nation.

It has also been objected, that the increase of inland navigation must, by its superior cheapness, ease, and certainty, diminish our coasting trade, and consequently weaken the navy, the natural and constitutional bulwark of Great Britain.—This objection is somewhat like the former one: it is regretting the enjoyment of an advantage; and the apprehension is apparently unfounded: for, as all the various branches of commerce mutually depend on, and support one another, the extension of the inland commerce will not diminish, but greatly enlarge, the number of ships and seamen, especially the later by the accession of vast numbers of young men, trained up in the management of sails and oars, in parts of the country where no sail nor oar was ever seen before the introduction of canals. And experience has actually confirmed this reasoning, not only in the general increase of shipping, and consequently of seamen \*, but by the certain knowledge, that the interior part of the country has begun to rival the coast as a nursery of seamen both for the merchant ships and ships of war.

Another objection is, that vast sums of money have been sunk in making canals.—But this is a very frivolous cavil. If an estate is productive, the owner will never object to its being too great. And this kind of property has never failed of being advantageous to the public, even in those instances where it has not been profitable to the proprietors. But granting the worst, that the canal is useless to the public, and consequently a dead loss to the proprietors, there is still no national loss: the money is only transferred from the pockets of the numerous subscribers, who are generally in circumstances to bear the loss of the sums subscribed, into the hands of industrious mechanics and labourers, who immediately return it into the general circulation. None of it is either hoarded or sent out of the country. Many turnpike roads cost more by the mile than some canals do: and as one horse can draw as great a weight of goods upon a canal, as thirty can draw upon a road, the superior serviceableness and profit of the canal are obvious.

There is yet another objection to canals, which, though rather too ridiculous to merit notice, has been repeatedly urged, that they destroy great quantities of land, which might be better employed in raising

\* In the year 1760, just before the duke of Bridgewater's first canal was finished, the ships cleared out of the ports of England were rated to carry 471,241 tons. In the year 1790, when almost all England was intersected by canals, their

burthen was 1,379,329 tons (regular measurement), which must have required considerably more than double the number of sailors; and there can be no doubt that the inland navigation has contributed its proportion to the great increase.

corn\*. But the line of a canal occupies but a very small space of ground; and, instead of diminishing, it greatly increases, the quantity of corn land, by conveying manure to render barren land productive. The quantity of corn for the use of mankind is moreover increased (as already observed) by rendering fewer horses necessary in the carrying business.

It has also been said, that the natural navigation of the rivers has been neglected in partiality to these newfangled artificial canals.—But, where the navigation of a river is free of obstructions, it cannot be supposed, that people are so fond of throwing away their money, as to make superfluous canals. And it ought to be remembered, that improvements upon the natural channels of rivers are frequently destroyed by heavy land floods, as was the case with the rivers Calder, Irwell, Stour, &c. which can do no injury to canals, as they admit no more water in their channels than what is proper and serviceable.

But the advantages of navigable canals, besides those already mentioned in the answers to the objections, are great and obvious. They give fresh life to established manufactures, and they encourage the establishment of new ones, by the ease of transporting the materials of manufacture and provisions; and thence we see new villages start up upon the borders of canals in places formerly condemned to sterility and solitude. They invigorate, and in many instances create, internal trade, which, for its extent and value, is an object of still more importance than foreign commerce, and is exempted from the many hardships and dangers of a maritime life, and changes of climate. And they greatly promote foreign trade, and consequently enrich the merchants of the ports where they, or the navigable rivers they are connected with, terminate, by facilitating the exportation of produce from, and the introduction of foreign merchandize into, the interior parts of the country, which are thus placed nearly on a level with the maritime parts; or, in other words, the interior parts become coasts, and enjoy the accommodations of shipping. The price of provisions is nearly equalized through the whole country; the blessings of Providence are more uniformly distributed; and the monopolist is disappointed in his schemes of iniquity and oppression by the ease wherewith provisions are transported from a considerable distance. The advantages to agriculture, which provides a great part of the materials, and almost the whole of the subsistence, required in carrying on manufactures and commerce, are pre-eminently great. Manure, marl, lime, and all other bulky articles, which could not possibly bear the great expense of cartage, and also corn and other produce, can be carried at a very light expense on canals; whereby poor lands are enriched, and barren lands are brought into cultivation,

\* I remember seeing an essay published only five or six years ago, the author of which very seriously advised filling up all the canals, and sowing corn upon the ground.

to the great emolument of the farmer and landholder, and the general advantage of the community in an augmented supply of the necessities of life and materials of manufactures. Coals, (the importance of which to a manufacturing country, few people, not actually concerned in manufactures, are capable of duly appreciating), stone, lime, iron-ore, and minerals in general, as well as many other articles of great bulk in proportion to their value, which had hitherto lain useless to their proprietors by reason of the expense, and in many cases impossibility, of carriage, are called into life, and rendered a fund of wealth by the vicinity of a canal, which thus gives birth to a trade, whereby, in return, it is maintained. The cheap, certain, and pleasant, conveyance of travelers by the trackskuyts in Holland has been admired by all, who have been in that country: and it must be owing to the universal desire in this country of flying over the ground with the greatest possible rapidity, that a mode of traveling, so exceedingly easy to the purse and the person, is so little used here. Neither ought we entirely to forget among the advantages of canals the pleasure afforded to the eye and the mind by a beautiful moving landscape of boats, men, horses, &c. busied in procuring subsistence to themselves, and in diffusing opulence and convenience through the country. And, in a word, we have now the experience of about forty years to establish as a certain truth, what was long ago said by Doctor Adam Smith, that great master of political economy, that *navigable canals are among the greatest of all improvements* \*.

This year a variation was introduced in the mode of river navigation by Mr. Bridge of Tewksbury in Gloucester-shire. Where a stream had many mills upon it, he availed himself of the mill-ponds and water-courses, as parts of a canal already completed. Having adapted to his boats a sufficient number of frames, each carrying one tun of goods, and having drawn a navigable cut from the stream below the mill-dam close to the under side of it, he hoisted up his frames with their contents from the boat below, by a crane, and placed them in another boat

\* Though I am not often guilty of transcribing poetry, yet I think the following lines, written by the ingenious poetess, Miss Aikin (now Mrs. Barbauld), so elegantly descriptive of the advantages and beauties of inland navigation, that they deserve to be laid before the reader.

• Here smooth canals across th' extended plain  
• Stretch their long arms to join the distant main:  
• The sons of toil with many a weary stroke  
• Scoop the hard bosom of the solid rock;  
• Resistless thro' the stiff opposing clay  
• With steady patience work their gradual way;  
• Compel the genius of th' unwilling flood  
• Thro' the brown horrors of the aged wood;  
• Cross the lone waste the silver urn they pour,  
• And cheer the barren heath or sullen moor.

4

• The traveller with pleasing wonder sees  
• The white sail gleaming thro' the dusky trees,  
• And views the alter'd landscape with surprise,  
• And doubts the magic scenes which round him  
• Rise.  
• Now, like a flock of swans, above his head  
• Their woven wings the [*sailing*] vessels spread.  
• Now meeting streams in artful currents glide,  
• While each unmingl'd pours a separate tide;  
• Now through the hidden veins of earth they  
• Flow,  
• And visit sulph'rous mines and caves below:  
• The ductile streams obey the guiding hand,  
• And social plenty circles round the land.'

This picture, drawn on the banks of the Mersea, is copied from the duke of Bridgewater's canals, and it is Brindley's 'guiding hand' which the ductile streams obey.



of exactly the same dimensions, lying in the mill-pond above, thus by a succession of boats avoiding the necessity of locks. This scheme was, however, disapproved of by the advocates for the navigation by locks; and it totally failed afterwards, and almost ruined those concerned in it.

The improvement and embellishment of the principal seats of commerce furnish strong proofs of advancing national prosperity. Therefor the capital improvements of London, and of the other great trading towns in the British dominions, will be briefly noticed in this work\*: and among these the new bridge over the Thames at Blackfriars may claim a pre-eminence in point of accommodation and ornament. The foundation stone of this elegant structure was laid by Sir Thomas Chitty, lord mayor of London (October 31st); and under it were placed several gold, silver, and copper, coins of the late king (in whose reign it was planned) and a silver medal, which the architect, Mr. Robert Mylne, had obtained in the year 1758, as a prize due to his architectural abilities, in Rome. As a testimony of their respect for the great merit of the prime minister, the citizens gave it the name of *Pitt's bridge*: but that name has never come into general use, and it is universally known by the name of *Blackfriar's bridge*.

At the same time a very great number of streets in almost every part of the city were widened, by the total removal of some houses, and rebuilding others.

The progress of the linen manufacture in Scotland may be judged of from the following statement of the number of yards and value of the linen stamped for sale in the following years.

|      |                  |          |    |   |           |
|------|------------------|----------|----|---|-----------|
| 1740 | 4,609,672 yards, | £188,777 | 16 | 5 | in value. |
| 1745 | 5,536,925        | 224,252  | 8  | 0 |           |
| 1750 | 7,572,540        | 361,736  | 12 | 5 |           |
| 1755 | 8,122,472        | 345,349  | 14 | 6 |           |
| 1760 | 11,747,728       | 523,153  | 10 | 4 |           |

A very large quantity of linen of the finer qualities, which is made in most families for private use, is not stamped. In several shires the quantity of it is probably not less than equal to the half of what is made for sale, and stamped.

But all this linen, made in the whole kingdom of Scotland, is considerably inferior in value to the *woollen cloth* manufactured in the west riding of York-shire only.

Some manufactures of a more advantageous nature were now beginning to arise in Scotland, especially in the towns and villages within the influence of the spirited and commercial city of Glasgow, among which Paisley was the soonest distinguished for the industry and ingenuity of its manufacturers. Bengals (imitations of striped muslins) handkerchiefs,

\* As only capital or essential improvements will be noticed, the reader will not be troubled with the petty detail of every act for paving or lighting a street, removing an offensive house, or the like.



lawn, and threads, had been made in Paisley for a considerable time before the year 1759, when silk gauzes were first made there. As soon as they appeared in London, some gentlemen there resolved to avail themselves of the low rate of wages in Paisley, and to set up a manufacture of silk gauzes upon a large scale. The stagnation, occasioned by the general mourning for the late king, was of service to their undertaking, as the weavers of light fabrics were all thrown idle, and glad to get employment; and thenceforth silk gauzes became the principal article of the place: they supplied the London and foreign markets, and gained so decided a preference to those of Spitalfields, that the manufacture was soon after in a manner resigned to Paisley; and there it has paved the way to the still more important manufactures of muslin and other articles of cotton. Thus the elegancies of dress, which in former ages were only to be obtained by prodigious labour and expense from India and China, were now supplied from countries, which long continued ignorant of every employment, but those of hunting, war, and superstition\*.

The first law enacted in the reign of King George III was 'An act for the support of his Majesty's household and the honour and dignity of the crown of Great Britain,' whereby the revenue of the civil list, which had hitherto been uncertain, was now fixed at £800,000 a-year; out of which the annuities to the king's mother, his uncle, and aunt, were to be paid during their lives. The revenues of Cornwall, and some other branches of hereditary revenue, were also reserved to the king over and above the stated sum of £800,000 [1 Geo. III, c. 1].

The act [33 Geo. II, c. 5] for the importation of salted beef, pork, and butter, from Ireland, being found beneficial, it was continued till the 24th of December 1761. [1 Geo. III, c. 4.]

From the commencement of the eighteenth century the trade of Ireland advanced with an almost-regularly progressive augmentation, the surest and most pleasing mark of real and durable commercial prosperity, as appears from the following accounts of its trade with all countries, collected from the Irish custom-house books, and arranged in decennial averages, for which we are indebted to the laudable industry of Lord Sheffield, who has published it in his *Observations on the manufactures, trade, and present state of Ireland*.

|                   | Average imports of Ireland. | Average exports of Ireland. |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| From 1700 to 1710 | £513,657 17 2               | £553,023 16 0               |
| 1710 to 1720      | 852,905 7 11                | 1,126,670 6 11              |

\* Paisley owes its origin as a town to a famous abbay founded in the year 1164 by Walter, steward, or steward, of Scotland, ancestor of the royal family.

|                   | Average imports of Ireland. | Average exports of Ireland. |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| From 1720 to 1730 | £856,936 6 8                | £1,019,809 3 2              |
| 1730 to 1740      | 885,044 8 2                 | 1,190,253 3 4               |
| 1740 to 1750      | 1,123,373 1 8               | 1,485,110 18 3              |
| 1750 to 1760      | 1,594,164 7 1               | 2,002,354 5 10              |

As a proof how much the trade with Britain exceeds that with all other countries, deduct from the last averages the average imports from, and exports to, Great Britain from 1750 to 1760 -

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1,015,306 2 10 | 1,274,569 7 0 |
|----------------|---------------|

and the trade of Ireland with all the rest of the world during these ten years appears to have averaged only -

|             |     |               |
|-------------|-----|---------------|
| 578,858 4 3 | and | 727,784 18 10 |
|-------------|-----|---------------|

‘ Although the balance of trade is in favour of Ireland with most countries, it is constantly against her with Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and the East country. It is often so in the trade with France, the import of claret exceeding the export of beef and pork to that country; and sometimes the balance is against her with Holland and Flanders.’ Upon the whole, it may be affirmed, that the trade of Ireland since the beginning of the eighteenth century has ‘ increased more in proportion than the trade of England, and, perhaps, if it could be ascertained, we should find, that the external trade of Ireland is, in proportion to her capital, greater than that of England; but Ireland is far behind as to internal trade, and until there is an improvement in that respect, she cannot expect to see her people fully employed, or in possession of any general affluence.’ [*Lord Sheffield’s Observations on the trade of Ireland, p.p. 269, 273, third ed.*]

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Christmas 1759 to Christmas 1760 was as follows.

| Countries, &c.   | Imported into   |               |  | Exported from    |               |  |
|--|-----------------|---------------|--|------------------|---------------|--|
|  | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.     |  | ENGLAND.         | SCOTLAND.     |  |
| Africa - - -   | £39,410 14 0    |               |  | 345,546 0 1      | 135 17 11½    |  |
| Canaries - - -   | 3,131 0 5       |               |  | 58,859 4 4       |               |  |
| Denmark and Norway - - -   | 58,745 10 10    | 23,845 8 4½   |  | 108,627 3 0      | 36,357 14 2   |  |
| East Country - - -   | 205,464 16 5    |               |  | 190,217 0 11     |               |  |
| East-India - - -   | 1,785,679 11 1  |               |  | 1,161,670 6 0    |               |  |
| Flanders - - -   | 31,228 3 0      |               |  | 379,093 11 9     |               |  |
| France - - -   | 37 5 9          |               |  | 209,946 9 7      | 341,871 13 4  |  |
| Germany - - -  | 668,076 11 4    | 14,318 6 7    |  | 1,544,016 15 5   | 37,182 17 5   |  |
| Greenland - - -  | 10,824 3 0      |               |  | 27 11 7          |               |  |
| Holland - - -  | 412,397 3 1     | 95,176 12 9½  |  | 1,784,442 11 2   | 207,583 2 10½ |  |
| Ireland - - -  | 904,180 14 8    | 127,439 9 7½  |  | 1,050,401 0 10   | 96,051 10 7½  |  |
| Mann - - -   |                 | 86 8 0        |  |                  | 890 17 4½     |  |
| Italy - - -  | 506,100 15 7    | 1,014 6 9½    |  | 210,096 10 2     | 4,648 11 6    |  |
| Madeira - - -  | 3,386 14 10     |               |  | 31,605 11 9      | 256 8 1½      |  |
| Poland - - -   |                 | 9,105 10 0½   |  |                  | 1,314 12 10   |  |
| Prussia - - -  |                 | 3,887 17 3½   |  |                  |               |  |
| Portugal - - -   | 299,088 4 8     | 8,446 9 6½    |  | 1,291,560 11 10  | 3,158 10 6½   |  |
| Russia - - -   | 474,680 2 9     | 61,824 8 5½   |  | 38,710 0 1       | 1,050 13 9    |  |
| Spain - - -  | 460,042 13 9    | 2,923 16 8½   |  | 1,048,222 18 1   | 10,024 16 7½  |  |
| Straits - - -  | 61,850 1 4      |               |  | 399,819 1 9      |               |  |
| Sweden - - -   | 193,340 2 5     | 25,280 6 3½   |  | 13,657 13 0      | 5,119 7 4     |  |
| Turkey - - -   | 58,916 12 6     |               |  | 55,730 0 10      |               |  |
| Venice - - -   | 41,138 2 6      |               |  | 6,105 5 11       |               |  |
| Guernsey &c. - - -   | 62,173 16 9     | 1,739 13 2½   |  | 73,549 0 6       | 18 6 3        |  |
| America in general - - -   |                 | 475,704 5 7   |  |                  | 340,540 4 0½  |  |
| Hudson's bay - - -   | 6,142 12 5      |               |  | 4,959 15 10      |               |  |
| Newfoundland - - -   | 26,360 2 4      |               |  | 56,643 1 0       |               |  |
| Cape-Breton - - -  | 5 8 3           |               |  | 11,048 14 5      |               |  |
| Quebec - - -   | 2,154 18 5      |               |  | 51,629 18 5      |               |  |
| Nova Scotia - - -  | 701 7 4         |               |  | 52,767 2 2       |               |  |
| New-England - - -  | 37,802 13 1     |               |  | 599,647 14 8     |               |  |
| New-York - - -   | 21,125 0 0      |               |  | 480,106 3 1      |               |  |
| Pennsylvania - - -   | 22,754 15 3     |               |  | 707,998 12 0     |               |  |
| Virginia and Maryland - - -  | 504,451 4 11    |               |  | 605,882 19 5     |               |  |
| Carolina - - -   | 162,769 6 7     |               |  | 218,131 7 8      |               |  |
| Georgia - - -  | 12,198 14 10    |               |  |                  |               |  |
| Antigua - - -  | 159,162 19 0    |               |  | 191,117 13 2     |               |  |
| Barbados - - -   | 223,716 12 11   |               |  | 269,449 6 2      |               |  |
| Bermuda - - -  | 70 12 7         |               |  | 16,115 14 8      |               |  |
| Guadaloupe - - -   | 424,366 18 4    |               |  | 118,569 5 10     |               |  |
| Jamaica - - -  | 1,034,283 3 8   |               |  | 585,771 13 2     |               |  |
| Montserrat - - -   | 75,936 12 4     |               |  | 23,143 13 4      |               |  |
| Nevis - - -  | 45,750 11 0     |               |  | 20,390 9 8       |               |  |
| New-Providence - - -   | 1,730 0 7       |               |  |                  |               |  |
| St. Croix - - -  |                 |               |  | 1,657 3 7        |               |  |
| St. Christophers - - -   | 292,470 19 2    |               |  | 149,142 4 10     |               |  |
| Tortola - - -  | 30,351 19 0     |               |  | 397 18 7         |               |  |
| British and Irish linens<br>exported on bounty to<br>various countries - - - |                 |               |  |                  |               |  |
| Prize goods - - -  | 465,602 18 5    |               |  | 188,159 5 0      |               |  |
|  |                 |               |  | 340,336 3 5      |               |  |
| Imp. and exp. of England - - -   | 9,832,802 11 1  |               |  | 14,694,970 9 2   |               |  |
| Imp. and exp. of Scotland - - -  | 850,792 19 3    | 850,792 19 3½ |  | 1,086,205 4 8    | 1,086,205 4 8 |  |
| Total, Great Britain - - -   | 10,683,595 10 4 |               |  | 15,781,175 13 10 |               |  |

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain from and to foreign countries \*, including repeated voyages,

|           | British  |         | Foreign  |         | Total    |         |
|-----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
|           | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.   |
| Inward -  | 3,568    | 258,028 | 1,088    | 130,778 | 4,656    | 388,806 |
| Outward - | 6,204    | 555,900 | 999      | 99,181  | 7,203    | 655,081 |

There belonged this year to all the ports  
 of England - 6,105 vessels, of the reputed burthen† of 433,922 tuns,  
 and of Scotland 976 52,818

Total - 7,081 486,740

The net amount, paid into the exchequer, of the customs arising from merchandize imported and exported in the course of the year, including the West-India duty of four and a half per cent, was £1,969,933:17:9.

There were coined in that part of the year, which was after the accession of King George III, 2,382 pounds of gold, value in money £111,298:19; and no silver.

The above statement of the imports and exports exhibits the amount of the foreign trade of Great Britain, as it appears in the custom-house books, without taking into the account that of Ireland or the colonies, except as to their intercourse with Great Britain; though their trade with other countries was very considerable, and was, indeed, the principal fund which enabled most of the continental colonies to pay the large balances they owed every year to the mother country.

There is no possibility of obtaining any statement of the home trade, which is carried on by means of coasting and inland navigation and land carriage, and is, with good reason, believed to be a vast deal greater in value than the whole of the foreign trade‡, *the people of Great Britain being the best customers to the manufacturers and traders of Great Britain.*

The sums in the custom-house books are made up from a valuation settled in the year 1697, when the office of inspector-general of imports and exports was newly instituted, which has been adhered to ever since,

\* In the custom-house accounts Ireland, Mann, Guernsey, Jersey, &c. are reckoned among the foreign countries.

† The following *Nota-bene* is added by Mr. Dalley, assistant register-general of shipping, to an account of vessels belonging to the ports of Great Britain in this, and some other years, laid before the house of commons.

‡ The above is the best account that can be prepared, according to the modes then in use of ascertaining the tonnage of vessels, which was seldom done by actual admeasurement; and the account contained only such vessels as either entered,

or cleared, at their respective ports once in the course of each year; consequently those which were absent from their ports during the whole year are not included. The real tonnage may in general be reckoned full fifty per cent above the reputed.

† It has been calculated, though I know not upon what grounds, or whether it is at all calculable, that the home consumption of this country is *two-and-thirty times* as much as the exports to foreign countries. Nevertheless, the foreign trade is generally the only standard referred to in speculation or argument upon the commercial prosperity or distress of the country.

notwithstanding the fluctuation of prices, and the prodigious improvements upon most articles of British manufacture, still shipped under the same denominations which marked the inferior productions of the seventeenth century \*. As the accounts thus compiled must convey a very inadequate idea of the modern value of most articles, they consequently afford but an inaccurate standard for comparing the value of one article with that of another ; but, with respect to the comparison of the trade of one year with that of another, they certainly afford a standard more correct, because *invariable*, than any account, following the frequent fluctuations of prices, could possibly do. Therefor, all things considered, the custom-house accounts, though they may have been sometimes under-entered in the amount of goods charged with duties, and probably often exaggerated in the amount of those that pay none, undoubtedly contain the best evidence that the nature of the case admits of. But much caution is necessary, and many circumstances must be duely considered, before a judgement can be formed from them of the advantages or disadvantages of any branch of the national commerce.

It has been customary to consider our trade with those countries, from which we import a greater value than we export to them, as unprofitable ; and that with those, to which our exports exceed the value of our imports, as profitable. But such a rule is liable to a great number of exceptions.—The apparent balance must be frequently erroneous from the inaccuracy of the valuation. For example ; the Irish linens are all rated in the custom-house entries in England at 8d a yard on an average, whereas 1/4 a yard, the average price assumed in the Irish custom-house books, is rather under the value. As linens generally constitute above a half of the value of the imports from Ireland to England and Scotland, the error in the value of that one article turns the balance of trade with Ireland against Great Britain : [See *Lord Sheffield's Observations on the manufactures, &c. of Ireland*, p. 276, *third ed.* 1785] and the valuations in many other branches of our commerce are not a whit more accurate.—Money brought into Great Britain is not subject to entry, and therefor does not appear in the custom-house books, any more than bills of exchange.—Money carried out swells the amount of export entries †, and consequently enlarges the supposed general profit ;

\* A pretty accurate standard for estimating the proportion between the real, and the custom-house, valuation of any cargo, or any year's exportation, of which the particulars are known, is furnished by the declarations now made in compliance with the convoy act, which took place in the year 1798. A good specimen of those proportions, drawn up by Mr. Irving, the inspector-general, will be given with the transactions of that year.

† Till the year 1765 the gold and silver carried abroad were entered in the custom-house books as

merchandise exported; under the title of Foreign gold and bullion (being £884,102:11:3 for the year 1760) which, being *foreign*, must have been previously imported, though the custom-house takes no cognizance of the importation. In extracting the accounts for the years 1760—1764 I have omitted this article, which, as it stands in the exports, appears to swell the *favourable* balance ; whereas it is in fact the necessary payment of an *unfavourable* balance. In time of peace, the bullion, which is exported, goes mostly to China.

though, according to the doctrine that gold and silver are the only standard of wealth, such exportation is so much clear loss to the nation.—Great quantities of goods, subject to high duties, totally prohibited, or shipped for exportation upon bounties or drawbacks, are clandestinely imported. Such importations, though not appearing in the general account, there is reason to believe, have considerable influence on the exchange with some neighbouring countries\*. And such of those smuggled goods as have been *entered* for exportation, perhaps over and over again, thus make great additions to the fallacious estimate of the profitable balance, without ever being in reality exported at all for foreign consumption.—All goods, exported for the use of our armies abroad, are part of the national expenditure; and can no more constitute a real part of the profitable balance, apparently swelled by their exportation, than the goods taken from his stock, by a manufacturer or shop-keeper for his own use, can be stated as enlarging his profitable sales.—Cargoes entered outward, which are lost at sea, or taken by the enemy, swell the amount of exports, and consequently of supposed profit; whereas in fact they are a dead loss to the nation (and, in case of capture, tend to enrich the enemy, by whom they are in reality exported) while the want of the homeward cargo, which should have been imported in return, and which to the individual sufferer is not only a real loss, but a heavy disappointment and derangement of his plans of trade, tends to enlarge the supposed balance of trade in our favour. And the loss or capture of homeward-bound ships in the same manner, by diminishing the amount of entered imports, fallaciously adds to the apparent favourable balance.

On the other hand, there are branches of trade, which would be ruinous, if the imports did not exceed the exports, or, in other words, if the balance were not *unfavourable*, according to this standard of estimation.—Such is the trade with all our West-India settlements, which have been formed and supported by British capitals, and in a great measure owned by proprietors residing in Great Britain. Therefor the outward cargoes † are to be considered as the stock employed in the culture of the plantations; and the homeward cargoes are in fact the pro-

\* For example, can we suppose that England this year bought goods from France only to the amount of £37 in return for goods to the amount of £209,946, or that Scotland took not one article in return for tobacco, &c. amounting to £341,871, seeing that the commerce in tobacco was tolerated on both sides.

† While the linens exported on the bounty were made a separate article in the account of exports, these outward cargoes were lower than the truth by the whole amount of those linens sent to the West-India islands, in which a very large proportion of them was consumed, or sold to the Span-

iards. In the year 1758 the value of the bounty linens shipped from England to all the colonies was £200,657 : 16 : 3, besides those sent from Scotland. In 1761 it was only £141,895 : 6 : 0.; and in 1762 it sunk (apparently in consequence of the war with Spain) to £28,260 : 13 : 1; and the vigilance of our own cruisers and revenue officers prevented the revival of the lucrative clandestine trade with the Spaniards on the return of peace. After the year 1764 the bounty linens were more properly entered along with the other goods in the exports of each particular country.



ceeds of that culture, the excess of which is not a loss to the nation, but the real amount of the net profits coming into the pockets of the proprietors, and giving a very comfortable demonstration how much the amount of the product is more than the prime cost. In other words, the outward cargoes are the *seed*, and the inward cargoes are the *harvest*. Neither is the balance, stated as due to the islands, remitted to them to increase their stock of circulating money. A part of it is paid, as interest or discharge of debts, to capitalists at home, to whom many of the plantations are deeply mortgaged. Another part (and, I hope, the largest) rests with the proprietors, of whom a very considerable number are merchants residing in Great Britain, and many of the others also reside in England, living on the balance of their plantation produce, which, if not entirely exhausted in their expenditure, is laid out in purchases at home, or in improving the West-India plantations, and thus in either way adding to, and by no means deducting from, the national opulence.

The same reasoning will also hold good with the trade to Hudson's bay, and several others, wherein the excess of the imports is the real profit, and a continuation of *favourable* balances would in a few years ruin the trade. In some branches of business the goods exported are merely the charges of trade, as is the case in all fisheries: for example, if a large sum appeared as the amount of goods carried to Greenland, and none at all brought from it, it is evident, that the apparent *favourable* balance is a *dead loss*, and that the adventurers, besides the goods shipped, and entered as exported, lose also the wages and provisions of the seamen, and the wear and tear of their ships; whereas in such trades the excess of the imports above the exports (or, if any body pleases to call it so, the *unfavourable* balance) shews the amount of the national gain.

There is another kind of deceptive inference to be drawn from the custom-house entries, if not duly guarded against. It is necessary to advert, that the exports to some countries constitute the prime cost of cargoes to be shipped off from them to a third country. Thus the wines of Madeira are sent to the British settlements in the East and West Indies, and, even if intended for Britain, are often carried by the circuitous route of those distant regions, before they are brought home. The bulk of the cargoes from Africa consists of the miserable natives, who are sold in the West-Indies; and the proceeds are generally remitted to Great Britain in bills of exchange, which do not appear at all in the custom-house books. And in like manner most of the cargoes, carried from Newfoundland and the adjacent countries, consist of fish, which never come to Great Britain, but are sold in Spain, Portugal, and other Roman catholic countries, and their proceeds also brought home in bills of exchange.

Were we to estimate the prosperity of a country merely from the balance of trade in the custom-house books, Scotland must be pronounced to be in a ruinous state ever since the American war; the imports from foreign countries being generally more than the exports to them; as will appear by the accounts to be found in the subsequent part of this work. But the truth is, that since that event the people of Scotland have paid more attention than formerly to manufactures, which (by land carriage and coasting navigation, neither of which appear in the custom-house books) are carried to every part of Great Britain, and enter to a much greater amount into the exports of London than into those of Glasgow: and that, upon the whole, the trade of Scotland is now more flourishing than ever.

From what has been said it will appear, that all arguments, calculations, or arrangements, founded upon the supposed balance of trade, are very fallacious; and that those founded upon the balance with any particular country are generally much more fallacious than those deduced from the general balance of the whole foreign trade of the nation\*.

1761, January 15<sup>th</sup>.—In India Colonel Coote took the famous city of Pondicherry, situated about sixty miles south from Madras on the Coromandel coast, and now almost the only settlement in that quarter of the world remaining in the hands of the French: and, as whatever wealth remained to them after the reduction of their other posts, was now amassed in that place, it rivalled, perhaps surpassed, the opulence and commercial splendour of Madras. This conquest may be said to have put an end to the power of the French in India, of which Major Rennell says, that ‘it was a bright meteor, that dazzled at first, but which soon burnt itself out, and left their East-India company in utter darkness.’

Mr. Law, a nephew of the famous author of the Mississippi scheme in France, having got together a body of about 200 French soldiers, persuaded the great mogul to attack Bengal, which was under the protection of the British forces. The mogul’s vast army was completely routed by Major Carnack, and the monarch himself, together with his friend Law, made prisoner; and this splendid victory was gained on the same day that Pondicherry surrendered.

New taxes being necessary to support the expense of the war, an additional excise duty of 3/† was laid on every barrel of beer or ale worth above 6s, to be brewed for sale in England after the 24th day of Ja-

\* Though I am conscious that these matters are much better understood by many of my readers than by myself, I have thought it would not be improper to subjoin such remarks to the first statement of the custom-house accounts, as they

may be useful to some, who have not had occasion to turn their thoughts upon such subjects.

† In consequence of this advance, the publicans, after encountering some opposition, got the price of porter raised from threepence to threepence halfpenny a quart.

nuary, and of twenty-four fifty-seventh parts of 3/ in Scotland, agreeable to the seventh article of the union.

The duties to be raised by this new excise were appropriated to pay the interest of twelve millions now borrowed as follows.

For £11,400,000 the subscribers were to receive for every £100 an annuity or annual interest of - - - £3 0 0

And also an annuity terminable in 99 years of - - - 1 2 6

Both to be computed from 5th January 1761, and to be payable at the bank in equal half-yearly dividends on the 5th of January and 5th of July in every year.

The subscribers to the remaining £600,000 were entitled to £60,000 lottery tickets at £10 each. In this lottery there were 11,945 prizes from £10,000 (of which there were two) down to £20; and the blanks were entitled to £6. But the holders of the tickets, instead of being paid in money, as in the present times, were put in possession of so much three-per-cent stock, as fortune appointed for them, to be computed from 5th January 1762; so that a prize of £10,000 entitled the fortunate adventurer to an income of £300 a year, and a blank (valued at £6) to one of 3/7 a year: and the value of them was whatever such income would sell for, according to the fluctuating price of the funds. [1 Geo. III, c. 7.]

In every loan act there is a section, in virtue of which the bank is to continue a corporation, till all the annuities therein provided shall be paid off. But that long term does not extend to the privilege of *exclusive* banking, or issuing paper money.

Mr. John Wood of Wednesbury in Staffordshire obtained a grant for a new invention of making malleable iron out of pig iron\*.

Canada being now a British province, the lords of trade and plantations addressed the king, that the trade of that country might be put under the same regulations with that of the other colonies, except such cases as might be otherways particularly provided for in the capitulation. After the conquest of this vast province, large orders for furs were forwarded to this country from Flanders, and even from Russia,

\* Mr. Eton mentions a discovery, by an Arabian at Constantinople, of the art of casting iron in such a manner, that, when it came out of the mould, it was perfectly malleable: and he observes, with some indignation at the wretched state of knowledge and government in Turkey, that this art, which might have been of the greatest importance to society, and which would have insured the inventor a splendid fortune in Christendom, languished for want of encouragement, and perished with the inventor, who died poor and unknown. Some men of science (Germans and Italians) after his death puzzled themselves, but in vain, in endeavouring to discover the process of his art. [Survey of Turkey, p. 227.] Such, for want of the interest necessary to procure encouragement, has been the fate of many a valuable discovery in other countries as well as in Turkey.

Mr. Reaumur, so well known for his improvement of the thermometer, in the year 1772 published an essay on the art of rendering cast iron ductile and fit to be forged: and a manufactory of it was set up in France, but afterwards given up; whence we may infer, that the process, if effectual, was unprofitable.

which, though a country of furs, does not produce a sufficient quantity for the supply of the inhabitants.

Ireland has of late made a rapid progress in national improvements; and the grand improvement of internal navigation by artificial canals has not been neglected. A canal, connecting the interior part of the country with Newry, had been begun about two years before, and was now open for the reception of gabbards \* and lighters.

The act of parliament, [6 *Geo. II*, c. 13.] for securing and encouraging the trade of the sugar colonies, being nearly expired, it was continued till the 29th of September 1763, and thence to the end of the then next session of parliament †. [1 *Geo. III*, c. 9.]

The act, permitting for a limited time the importation of tallow from Ireland duty-free, was extended to hogs-lard and grease. [1 *Geo. III*, c. 10.] It was hoped, that the extravagant price of candles, which pressed so hard on the poor, would thereby be somewhat reduced: and therefore this law, so extended, has been renewed from time to time.

That the importers of gold and silver might not be discouraged by any deficiency of the revenue, appropriated for the support of the mints of England and Scotland, the treasury was empowered to defray the necessary expenses attending them for seven years, reckoning from the 1st of March 1761, so as they, with the coinage duties, do not exceed £15,000 a year. [1 *Geo. III*, c. 16.]

Besides the twelve millions lately voted, the parliament found it necessary to provide several large sums by exchequer bills, and by borrowing from the bank and from the sinking fund, for the urgent expenses of the war.

The particulars of the public expenditure of this year, which are any way connected with commercial establishments, including colonization, were the following.

|   |   |   |         |    |   |
|---|---|---|---------|----|---|
| For the support of Nova Scotia,         | - | - | £10,595 | 12 | 9 |
| For the civil establishment of Georgia, | - | - | 4,057   | 10 | 0 |

Of which sum £1000 was appropriated for purchasing from the cultivators the cocoons of the silk-worms: and for the further encouragement of that branch of industry, Mr. Ottolengi, an Italian, was appointed, with a proper salary, to instruct the colonists in the management of silk-worms and silk.

|   |   |         |   |   |
|---|---|---------|---|---|
| Allowed as a compensation to the provinces of North-America for their expenses in levying troops to oppose the French forces, | - | 200,000 | 0 | 0 |
|---|---|---------|---|---|

\* Gabbards are small vessels of a flat construction, fit for coasting and river navigation.

† This supplemental continuation being, I believe, in all the acts which refer to limited periods, it will not be necessary to repeat it every time such acts are mentioned.

|  |   |         |    |   |
|--|---|---------|----|---|
| Allowed to the East-India company towards the expense of their military establishment, | - | 20,000  | 0  | 0 |
| To the city of London towards repairing and widening the passage over London bridge,   | - | 15,000  | 0  | 0 |
| For supporting the British forts in Africa,  | - | 13,000  | 0  | 0 |
| To which may be added,   |   |         |    |   |
| For the foundling hospital *,  | - | £44,197 | 10 | 0 |
| [1 Geo. III, cc. 18, 19, 20.]  |   |         |    |   |

An act was passed for enlarging and improving the harbour of Whitehaven in Cumberland.

The king having recommended it to parliament to render the condition of the judges more independent, their appointments and salaries were fixed for life, unless they should render themselves liable to be removed by an address of both houses of parliament. [1 Geo. III, c. 23.]

A new machine for catching fish, said to be very simple in construction, and very effectual in execution, was exhibited at Richmond on the Thames. This one, being on a small scale, was worked by a child: but the large ones were proposed by the inventor to require only two men, even in the most tempestuous weather; and it was added, that the use of them was entirely exempted from the very great hazard to which the lives of the fishermen are exposed in boats.

The island of Dominica (one of those called neutral islands) in the West-Indies was taken from the French by Commodore Sir James Douglas, and General Lord Rollo, commander of the land forces, with a reinforcement furnished from Guadaloupe under the command of Colonel Melville, lieutenant-governor of that island. Dominica has since become a very valuable British colony, as will appear in due time.

The governor of Barbados was commissioned to be also governor of Dominica, St. Vincent's, Tobago, and the rest of the islands to windward (eastward) of Guadaloupe.

The island called Belleisle on the coast of France surrendered to the British arms. But this capture, which was merely an operation of the war, had little or no influence upon commerce.

The Dutch this season employed 152 vessels in their herring fishery on the coasts of Shetland and Scotland, and 122 in their fishery on the coast of Iceland.

While the Dutch were thus working their GOLD MINE † upon the Scottish shores, the Scots had only 17 vessels, measuring 745 tons, and carrying 174 men, employed on this important national object: and

\* A sum almost as large was granted the next year, and such grants have been often repeated, as also the grants for Nova-Scotia, &c. which are annual.

† So the Dutch call their herring fishery, which is entirely carried on upon our coasts.

this year's was the greatest outfit for the fishery since the attempt to revive it by bounties\*.

In a treaty of peace and commerce concluded with the emperor of Morocco in July 1760, and ratified 5th August 1761, it was stipulated,

*Article 2, 6)* That all English ships arriving in any port of the empire of Morocco, and finding their cargoes unsaleable there, should be at liberty to carry them to any other port of the empire, and pay duty only once, fire-arms, swords, and other implements of war, and materials for building ships, being free of all duty; and that ships bound to other parts of the world, calling at any of the ports of Morocco, should pay no duty; and ships belonging to either party, driven into the ports of either country by stress of weather, should be protected, and enjoy perfect liberty.

3, 4, 17) Ships of both parties should have liberty to navigate the seas without any search or hindrance on shewing their passports.

7, 8) The king should be at liberty to establish a consul, or consuls, in the dominions of the emperor, who should reside in what ports or places he, or they, should think proper; they, and all the British merchants, with their families and servants, enjoying perfect liberty, religious, civil, and commercial. And the subjects of Morocco should enjoy equal liberty in Britain.

12) Subjects of Morocco carrying cargoes from Britain should have the advantage of a British convoy to Gibraltar, and thence to their own port on the coast of Morocco.

15) All subjects of the king, whether British or German, found onboard the ships of any other nation, with whom the emperor of Morocco is at war, are to be delivered free of ransom to the British consul, or the principal British merchant at the port they are carried into. The people of Morocco, found onboard any vessel taken by British ships of war, are to be treated in the same favourable manner.

24) The payment of 225,000 pesos duros [hard dollars] was to be considered as entire satisfaction for all redemptions, differences, difficulties, &c.

The people of England now beginning to understand the great advantages of inland navigation, the duke of Bridgewater's example was followed on the opposite side of the country in a canal extending from Lynn to Northampton, the navigation of which commenced with the passage of 38 barges loaded with coals, &c. on the 7th of August.

It is said, that the Dutch annually receive from this country the enormous sum of £100,000 for the single article of turbot, and also large sums for other species of fish. The Norwegians also carry off large sums for lobsters and crabs. It was therefor a patriotic undertak-

\* A chronological statement of the Scottish fishery will be afterwards inserted.



ing in the society for the encouragement of arts and commerce to advance £2000 upon a plan suggested by Mr. Tull (the son of the founder of the horse-hoeing system of husbandry) for supplying London with fish brought from the coast by land-carriage, which was put under the management of Captain J. Blake.

Upon invitation from Sir Samuel Fludyer, the first new lord mayor of London after the king's marriage, the king, queen, and royal family, the court, and the foreign ambassadors, were entertained at the installation dinner at Gild-hall; on which occasion one of the foreign ministers was so struck with the superb display of the magnificence and opulence of the city, that he said, such an entertainment was only fit to be given by one sovereign to another.

A method of preserving the bottoms of ships from the worm, and from the adhesion of weeds, had been some years before this time submitted to the society for the encouragement of arts and manufactures; and some experiments, made in various climates, with wood prepared according to the directions of the inventor, were found satisfactory; so that this new method was supposed to be of infinite service to all kinds of shipping.

But this method was soon superseded by another, and apparently a more effectual, preservative, composed of thin sheets or plates of smooth copper, which no worm or animal of any kind will touch, and no vegetable will adhere to, which are great objects in point of swift sailing. It likewise keeps the ship tighter than any other sheathing, and is infinitely preferable to the old sheathing of lead, which was clumsy and intolerably heavy; whereas the copper is neat and much lighter than the thinnest sheathing of boards, and lasts almost as long as the ship can be kept afloat. The first trial was made on the *Alarm*, one of the king's ships, at Woolwich: and it soon came into general use, not only in the navy, but also in the merchants' service.

A manufacture of cambric, in imitation of the French fabric, was established at Winchelsea, which was expected to be of great national advantage, by saving the great sums sent to France for that article.

Among the patriotic grants of the Irish parliament for the general improvement of the country, the following are selected, as more immediately connected with commerce and manufactures.

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| To the trustees for the linen manufacture for two years * | £8,000 |
| To encourage a cambric manufacture at Dundalk -           | 1,375  |
| To the corporations of several inland navigations -       | 13,500 |
| The great canal from Dublin to the Shannon -              | 10,000 |
| Making the Shannon navigable from Limerick to Kilaloe     | 8,000  |

\* By the judicious management of the trustees the linen manufacture of Ireland was this year increased upwards of £30,000, and was still increasing.

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| For a new key and other improvements at Limerik                                  | 4,500  |
| Improving the navigation of the Barrow and the Boyne                             | 4,000  |
| Building piers at Dunleary and Balbriggan  | 4,500  |
| Improving Cork harbour by clearing the channel                                   | 4,000  |
| Finishing the harbour of Wicklow   | 1,850  |
| To finish a dock at Dublin   | 1,000  |
| To lengthen the wall of the ballast-office                                       | 5,000  |
| And to the Dublin society for the improvement of husbandry and other useful arts | 12,000 |

These grants, when added to those voted for churches, schools, hospitals, mills, &c. are, considering all things, wonderfully liberal: and there is this great blessing that attends such expenditure of public money, that, if the object should even not be accomplished, yet the money is employed in diffusing industry and comfort among a vast number of workmen, who are thereby enabled to maintain their families, and to raise up a healthy and industrious race of future workmen to support and enrich the state. And as such public works, considered and planned by the national wisdom, and executed under the superintendence of men of the first professional abilities, scarcely ever miscarry, they are in every sense the surest means to enrich a country. The same, or similar, grants were repeated, as often as they were needful, by the parliament of Ireland.

For the convenience of change, gold pieces of the value of  $5/3$ , called quarter guineas, were coined; but being very small, they were found trifling and inconvenient, and the circulation of them was discontinued in a few years.

The following is a statement of the number of cattle, &c. killed in the city of London during the year 1761.

|                               |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 711,121 sheep and lambs,      | 146,932 hogs for pork, |
| 78,254 bulls, oxen, and cows, | 41,000 hogs for bacon, |
| 104,760 calves,               | 52,600 sucking pigs.   |

The following statement of the royal navy of Great Britain in the year 1761, may be useful in order to compare it with subsequent ones.

|                            |                                  |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 ships of the 1st rate,   | 12 bomb vessels;                 |
| carrying - 96 to 110 guns; | 10 fire ships;                   |
| 11 - 2d rate, 84— 90       | 4 store ships;                   |
| 60 - 3d rate, 64— 80       | 39 hired armed vessels;          |
| 43 - 4th rate, 48— 60      | 7 royal yachts;                  |
| 71 - 5th rate, 26— 44      | 5 small yachts;                  |
| 40 - 6th rate, 16— 24      | Total, 372 vessels of all kinds. |
| 68 - sloops, 8— 14         |                                  |

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Christmas 1760 to Christmas 1761 was as follows.

| Countries, &c.   | Imported into  |               | Exported from   |               |
|--|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
|  | ENGLAND.       | SCOTLAND.     | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.     |
| Africa - - -   | £12,201 3 2    |               | £325,307 1 11   | £1,700 6 4    |
| Canaries - - -   | 482 17 10      |               | 64,543 5 1      |               |
| Denmark and Norway - - -   | 78,377 6 11    | £25,286 3 2   | 111,227 0 1     | 44,013 11 0   |
| East Country - - -   | 133,536 7 0    |               | 202,254 16 1    |               |
| East-India - - -   | 840,987 11 4   |               | 845,797 0 4     |               |
| Flanders - - -   | 30,546 11 5    |               | 425,130 19 4    |               |
| France - - -   | 480 8 2        |               | 74,242 5 7      | 102,931 14 2  |
| Germany - - -  | 704,744 13 5   | 12,002 8 1    | 2,249,279 2 9   | 82,719 4 2    |
| Greenland - - -  | 7,972 17 10    |               | 34 11 10        |               |
| Holland - - -  | 437,127 7 7    | 86,981 19 3   | 2,245,695 12 4  | 436,470 1 4   |
| Ireland - - -  | 853,804 8 0    | 101,992 16 11 | 1,476,114 14 3  | 166,282 6 4   |
| Iceland - - -  |                | 12 10 0       |                 | 21 15 0       |
| Mann - - -   |                | 59 6 0        |                 | 1,878 6 0     |
| Italy - - -  | 761,916 18 7   |               | 199,461 6 9     | 4,173 15 0    |
| Madeira - - -  | 6,714 15 9     |               | 46,931 16 9     | 1,826 11 2    |
| Poland - - -   |                | 13,850 17 6   |                 | 3,097 17 3    |
| Prussia - - -  |                | 3,831 11 1    |                 |               |
| Portugal - - -   | 241,956 1 9    | 8,211 19 1    | 1,264,071 15 1  | 2,100 13 7    |
| Russia - - -   | 765,427 17 9   | 77,658 4 6    | 47,479 17 10    | 238 10 0      |
| Spain - - -  | 433,917 4 9    | 4,837 18 11   | 1,253,737 17 11 | 10,597 18 5   |
| Straits - - -  | 103,628 10 5   |               | 389,577 5 2     |               |
| Sweden - - -   | 270,968 7 7    | 27,781 14 7   | 23,128 4 8      | 2,998 0 5     |
| Turkey - - -   | 163,366 19 6   |               | 54,282 14 2     |               |
| Venice - - -   | 13,229 12 5    |               | 26,367 6 7      |               |
| Guernsey, &c. - - -  | 85,090 2 8     | 6,469 16 8    | 54,433 18 1     | 124 10 0      |
| Belle-isle - - -   | 821 4 0        |               | 54,576 12 8     |               |
| America in general - - -   |                | 379,662 9 3   |                 | 301,527 10 2  |
| Hudson's bay - - -   | 11,294 3 2     |               | 5,858 16 10     |               |
| Newfoundland - - -   | 25,282 7 8     |               | 57,904 2 10     |               |
| Cape-Breton - - -  | 16 0 0         |               |                 |               |
| Quebec - - -   | 14,015 16 1    |               | 226,202 9 5     |               |
| Nova-Scotia - - -  | 80 14 0        |               | 59,408 17 3     |               |
| New-England - - -  | 46,225 11 11   |               | 334,225 13 7    |               |
| New-York - - -   | 48,648 10 2    |               | 289,570 5 1     |               |
| Pennsylvania - - -   | 39,170 0 0     |               | 204,067 2 3     |               |
| Virginia and Maryland - - -  | 455,083 0 2    |               | 545,350 14 6    |               |
| Carolina - - -   | 253,002 17 11  |               | 254,587 11 0    |               |
| Georgia - - -  | 5,764 11 9     |               | 24,279 19 9     |               |
| Antigua - - -  | 280,869 16 1   |               | 108,244 4 8     |               |
| Barbados - - -   | 253,900 10 1   |               | 215,479 16 3    |               |
| Bermuda - - -  | 1,266 0 3      |               | 14,207 2 2      |               |
| Guadaloupe - - -   | 482,179 2 2    |               | 131,042 19 11   |               |
| Jamaica - - -  | 932,197 5 8    |               | 441,618 12 3    |               |
| Montserrat - - -   | 79,982 0 4     |               | 21,072 2 9      |               |
| Nevis - - -  | 67,538 12 3    |               | 12,134 14 4     |               |
| New-Providence - - -   | 1,727 7 0      |               |                 |               |
| St. Croix - - -  | 199 10 0       |               | 254 11 5        |               |
| St. Christophers - - -   | 294,850 14 5   |               | 134,039 11 11   |               |
| St. Thomas - - -   | 5 0 0          |               |                 |               |
| Tortola - - -  | 44,286 2 11    |               | 998 4 2         |               |
| Monte Christi - - -  | 8,314 11 5     |               | 2,533 4 5       |               |
| St. Eustathius - - -   |                |               | 5,603 6 9       |               |
| British and Irish linens<br>exported on bounty to<br>various countries - - - |                |               | 154,550 18 0    |               |
| Prize goods - - -  | 248,702 5 1    |               | 195,164 14 1    |               |
| Imp. and exp. of England - - -   | 9,543,901 14 4 |               | 14,873,191 0 10 |               |
| Imp. and exp. of Scotland - - -  | 748,639 15 0   | 748,639 15 0  | 1,165,722 1 2   | 1,165,722 1 2 |
| Total, Great Britain - - -   | 10,292,541 9 4 |               | 16,038,913 2 0  |               |

There were entered this year from and to foreign countries in the various ports of Great Britain :

|           | British. |         | Foreign. |         | Total.   |         |
|-----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
|           | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.   |
| Inward -  | 4164     | 527,557 | 1848     | 180,102 | 6012     | 707,659 |
| Outward - | 5818     | 466,096 | 1079     | 119,308 | 6897     | 585,404 |

There belonged this year to all the ports  
of England 6119 vessels of the reputed burthen of 405,793 tuns.  
and of Scotland 956 - - - 51,523

Total 7075 - - - 457,316

The net amount of customs, including the West-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the course of this year, was,  
from the custom-house in London, - £1,858,151 18 11  
and from the custom-house in Edinburgh, - 8,000 0 0

Total net revenue of the customs of Great Britain, £1,866,151 18 11

And there were coined at the mint in the course of the year  
11,790 pounds of gold, value - - - £550,887 15 0  
and 10 pounds of silver, - - - 31 0 0

£550,918 15 0

1762, January 4<sup>th</sup>—War was proclaimed against Spain.

January 22<sup>d</sup>—A treaty was entered into with the bey of Tunis ; but though called a treaty of commerce, it contains nothing worth mentioning in a commercial point of view.

A loan was opened for twelve millions by open subscription at the bank. For every £100 the subscribers were entitled to an annuity, which was to continue at £4 for 19 years, and afterwards to be reduced to £3, and also to a terminable annuity of £1 for 98-years. [2 *Geo.* III, c. 10.]

The trade carried on by the French with the West-Indies, though crippled by the capture of several of their islands, was still considerable and productive : and therefor the British ministry considered their remaining islands as the points wherein they were most vulnerable, and by the possession of which a peace might most speedily be effected. Martinique, the chief of the French windward islands, was accordingly attacked by a considerable force under the command of General Monkton and Admiral Rodney ; and by a final capitulation (for there were two previous partial ones) the whole island was surrendered to the British commanders (February 13th).

The conquest of this important island naturally drew after it the sub-

mission of the remainder. Grenada and its dependencies, and St. Lucia and St. Vincent's, long the subjects of fierce contests between France and England, following the same example, France had not now a single possession in any of the islands to windward of Puerto-rico. All were subject to Great Britain. And though these islands are only specks on the surface of the ocean, yet being vigorously cultivated, exporting the whole of their produce, and importing nine tenths of all the articles necessary for their subsistence and for carrying on their cultivation, the trade of each single island with the mother-country is equal, or even superior, to that of some kingdoms \*.

The number of houses in Boston, in New England, was found on a survey to be 2757. If we allow five inhabitants to every house, the number of inhabitants will be 13,785.

It may certainly be considered as a proof of the prosperity of the people of Ireland, as well as of their satisfaction with the conduct of the earl of Halifax, their lord-lieutenant, that they addressed him with a proposal of augmenting the salary of himself and his successors to £16,000 a-year.

The lieutenant-governor of Nova Scotia having conciliated the friendship of the neighbouring Indians, who had been converted to the religion and interests of the French, an act of the legislature of the province was passed to guard against the interruption of the harmony, by fraudulent practices in those who trade with the Indians, and to oblige all such to take out licences, and give security for their compliance with the regulations of the act. This act moreover established a tariff of regulated prices, which were fixed as the standard of the trading intercourse between the white people and the Indians.

A pound of the best spring beaver was valued at 5*s*, and established as the fixed standard, by which all other goods were to be valued as follows.

|                                    |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of fall beaver | } equal to 1 lb. of spring beaver. | 1 large cat-skin (loup servie) 2 lb.                    |
| 1 otter-skin                       |                                    | Seal-skins, according to size,                          |
| 3 sable, or martin skins           |                                    | from 8 <i>d</i> to 3/4                                  |
| 6 minks-skins                      |                                    | 6 lb. of feathers - 1                                   |
| 10 musk-rats or musquash skins     |                                    | 1 large blanket - 2                                     |
| 5 lb. of deer-skin                 |                                    | Rum, per gallon - $\frac{1}{3}$                         |
| 10 ermine-skins                    |                                    | Molasses, per gallon - $\frac{2}{5}$                    |
| 1 large good bear-skin             |                                    | 30 lb. flour - 1  |
| 1 red fox-skin -                   |                                    | 14 lb. pork - 1   |
| 1 black fox-skin -                 |                                    | Stroud, per yard - $1\frac{1}{2}$                       |
| 1 silver fox-skin, -               | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$                    | and all other merchandize in proportion to these rates. |
| 1 large moose-skin -               | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$                    |   |

\* In this same year (1762) the produce of Martinique imported into Great Britain exceeded that of any other of our islands, Jamaica and Guadaloupe (also lately a French island) only excepted; and the returns of its commerce were more extensive than those of our trade with Denmark and Norway, with Sweden, or with Spain.

From a statistical survey of Nova Scotia, taken at this time, the population and cultivation were as follows.

In Halifax 2500 people, Lunenburg 1400, Horton 900, Cornwallis 600, Liverpool 504, eleven other towns, or townships, from 60 to 350, 1840.—Total 7744.

There were 14,640 acres of cleared upland in grass, and 86,000 acres of salt marsh in some degree of cultivation.

For the encouragement of the fisheries of Nova Scotia, parliament permitted salt to be carried to that province from any part of Europe in British vessels, as by the act, 15 Cha. II, was allowed to Newfoundland and New England. [2 *Geo. III*, c. 24, *passed 2d June*.]

According to the report of Mr. Jones, who was sent by the governor of Jamaica to the Musquito shore, to act in place of the deceased superintendent, 'from the year 1759 to 1762, the Musquito shore was inhabited by 203 white people (the detachment of 30 soldiers included) with 189 free mestees and mulattoes, about 3000 Musquito Indians, and 914 negro slaves, in all 4306 souls, besides the friendly Indians on the back part of the country. The imports of British commodities, on an average amounting to £18,500 a-year, and the exports to £30,792, employed 1150 tons of shipping and 115 seamen.'

The commodities furnished by the native Indians are mahogany, sarsaparilla, silk-grass, honey, bees'-wax, deer and leopard skins, hammocks made of cotton and silk-grass, cotton cloths called cavallys for covering beds and tables, which they make large and fine, of various colours, with stripes and figures. They also furnish great quantities of turtle-shell.

Mr. Jones observes, that the imports and exports of the bay of Honduras are much larger than those of the Musquito shore. ✓

Parliament passed a new act for providing a reward for the discovery of the longitude at sea, whereby a sum not exceeding £2000 was appointed to be paid by the commissioners of the longitude to any person whose proposal they should think deserving of a trial. [2 *Geo. III*, c. 18.]

The many improvements of the instruments used for taking the altitude of the sun, have made it perfectly easy for navigators to ascertain their latitude very exactly, every day that the sun is visible. But for the longitude they were obliged to depend upon the accuracy of the course steered, and the mensuration of the ship's velocity by an instrument called the log, which are both liable to much uncertainty—from the indeterminate allowance for currents and lee way, which must depend on the judgment, or conjecture, of the navigator—from an erroneous construction of the compass—from erroneous measurement of the log-line—erroneous quantity of sand in the half-minute glass—inexperience of the person heaving the log—swell of the sea—variation of



the ship's rate of going between the stated times of heaving the log, &c. Hence a method of ascertaining the longitude, with the same degree of accuracy which is attainable in the latitude, has for ages been the grand desideratum in navigation: and since the year 1714, when the parliament offered a reward of £20,000 for the best method of ascertaining the longitude at sea, many schemes have been devised, but all to little or no purpose, as going generally upon wrong principles, till that heaven-taught artist, Mr. John Harrison, arose.

It is evident, that as the globe revolves round its axis in twenty-four hours, every one of the 360 degrees of longitude must be equal to four minutes of time; and consequently, that if a ship has sailed from any given point, where the sun was in the zenith, (or in his meridional altitude) and next day, when the sun is in the zenith, it is found by a watch, which goes perfectly true, that it is four minutes after twelve, the ship has made one degree of difference of longitude to the westward; or, if the watch wants four minutes of twelve, one degree of east longitude; and so in proportion for any greater or less difference. Hence nothing more is required to make us sure of the longitude than a watch perfectly true. But watches, like all other productions of human art, are liable to error, and are, moreover, in a considerable degree affected by the changes of the atmosphere. To the correction of these defects Mr. Harrison devoted the assiduous studies of a long life; and he produced, what is probably, in principle, the nearest approach that ever will be made by human ingenuity to the great object of the wishes of navigators and philosophers, a *chronometer* or time-keeper, which, in two voyages made by his son to the West-Indies, under the direction of the commissioners of the longitude, was found to determine the longitude at sea with an accuracy beyond the nicest exactness required by the act of parliament, as appeared by certificates from the captain and officers of the ship, which was appointed to attend him on the trial, and also from the governor of Jamaica.

The board of longitude thereupon paid Mr. Harrison £1500. And, that we may connect the whole of this business together, parliament next year ordered £5000 to be paid to him, on condition that he should lay open to the public the principles upon which his time-keeper was constructed: and they promised to pay him the remainder of the £20,000, if on further trials in the course of four years it should still be found to ascertain the longitude within the required limits of exactness; during which time no other artist should be permitted to compete with him in the same line of discovery. [*Act 3 Geo. III, c. 14, passed 31st March 1763.*] At different times thereafter Mr. Harrison obtained payment of the remainder of the £20,000.

Time-keepers have ever since been made upon Mr. Harrison's prin-

ciples with great success, and also with improvements, by several watch-makers. The general use of them onboard the navy, the East-India ships, and many private merchant ships, has been productive of this important advantage to navigation, that a very great number of the present race of navigators are much better acquainted with the principles upon which the science of navigation is founded, than their predecessors generally were, many of whom knew nothing further than merely how to use the instruments, apply the rules, and extract numbers from the tables, which men of science had constructed for their use, without ever bestowing a thought to inquire, why those instruments, rules, and tables, were so constructed. To the use of time-keepers in the hands of men of science we are also indebted for the great improvements lately made in the knowledge of currents in the ocean, whereof we may expect soon to possess accurate charts describing their course and velocity as correctly as the soundings and set of the tide are marked in the present charts of harbours and bays. Thus does Harrison's invention constitute a new and a splendid æra in the history of navigation.

The board of longitude also gave a premium of £500 to Doctor Irwin for his invention of a marine chair, which enables the navigator to observe the heavenly bodies during a storm with as much steadiness and certainty, as if he stood on firm ground.

In order to prevent the damages and thefts committed upon the shipping in the river Thames by people carrying on a petty trade upon the river in boats, commonly called bum-boats, all such traders were ordered to be registered, and subjected to regulations. The crime of cutting or damaging cables, cordages, buoys, &c. belonging to vessels, was made punishable by transportation for seven years: and persons convicted of buying goods stolen upon the river were subjected to punishment by transportation for fourteen years\*. [2 *Geo. III, c. 28.*]

Rye in Suffex, one of the antient port-towns, distinguished by the name and privileges of the Cinque ports, had been ruined by the recesses of the sea, and afterwards in the sixteenth century in a great measure restored by two irruptions of the same element, which has so often made great revolutions in the state of the ports on that coast. These advantages were improved by a cut capable of carrying vessels of above 300 tons as high as Winchelsea, which was now completed.

It is very agreeable to be able to record, that the success of the British herring fishery on the coast of Shetland this year exceeded that of the Dutch, and that the British yaggers reached the first markets at

\* Mr. Colquhoun, in his very useful *Treatise on the commerce of the river Thames*, p. 48, observes, that fourteen years elapsed after this act was passed, before any one of its provisions was carried into effect.

Hamburgh and Bremen, though the number of Dutch vessels, as usual, greatly exceeded ours.

The whale fishing this year had very little success.

|                          |         |  | ships. | sizeable<br>fish. |
|--------------------------|---------|--|--------|-------------------|
| From London              | 7 ships | got 7 size-<br>able fish and 11 very small ones. |        |                   |
| From Hull                | 2 ships | - 0 fish.  |        |                   |
| Newcastle                | 4       | - 1  |        |                   |
| Liverpool                | 2       | - 1  |        |                   |
| Exeter                   | 1       | - 0  |        |                   |
| 11 very small.           |         |  |        |                   |
| English ships            | 16      | - 9 fish.  |        |                   |
| And 154 Dutch ships      |         | got only 43 fish.                                |        |                   |
| From Leith               | -       | -  | 1      | 4                 |
| Borrowstounness          |         |  | 2      | 0                 |
| Anstruther (1 ship lost) |         |  | 2      | 0                 |
| Dundee (2 very small)    |         |  | 2      | 0                 |
| Dunbar                   |         |  | 3      | 3                 |
| Aberdeen                 |         |  | 1      | 1                 |
| Scottish ships           | -       |  | 14     | 5                 |

The Havanna, a place formed by nature and by art for a most spacious, secure, and, I might almost add, impregnable, harbour, the most important settlement belonging to the Spaniards in the western hemisphere, and the general center of all their commerce in that quarter of the world, was attacked by a formidable force under the command of Lord Albemarle and Admiral Pococke; and after a gallant and obstinate defence of ten weeks, was surrendered, and with it a considerable district of Cuba, the largest island of the West-Indies, on the 14th of August. By the capitulation, all the private property was secured to the inhabitants. But above twenty capital ships of war, most of them of the line, and all the money and merchandize belonging to the king of Spain, estimated at near three millions sterling, fell into the hands of the conquerors. One consequence of this important conquest was, that a very considerable trade was immediately opened with it, as will appear in the statement of the imports and exports, for the short time it continued in our hands: but the principal value of it was, that, as the loss of it struck at the very vitals of the commerce and revenue of Spain, it was very instrumental in restoring the blessings of peace.

Though the mere depredations of war do not properly belong to the history of commerce, yet a brief notice may be admitted of the capture of the *Hermione*, a Spanish register ship, loaded with bullion and rich merchandize, which afterwards sold for considerably above half a million sterling, by two sloops of war, as having contributed, with the treasure brought from the Havanna, to increase the circulating money of the nation\*.

\* Of the prize-money, the admiral and two captains had each about £65,000, the commissioned officers about £13,000, the warrant officers about £4335, the petty officers about £1804, and the private men about £485 each. All were enriched

who could take care of their money; and some of the petty officers, by retiring to their native places, and entering into the herring fishery, became men of consequence, and chief magistrates of the towns.

It is scarcely worth while to observe, that the French took possession of Newfoundland in June, and were driven from it in September this year. The temporary success gave no advantage to the French, though considerable damage was thereby done to our fishermen.

The Portuguese, who in the fifteenth century were the first maritime power in the world, had now declined so much from their antient pre-eminence, that about half a dozen ships of the line, and a few frigates composed their whole navy, when they were attacked by the united powers of France and Spain, in order to compell them to withdraw from their connection with Great Britain: and to that island, which in the days of their splendour scarcely possessed a ship of war, the Portuguese now looked up for protection, and the preservation of their national independence. After they recovered from the consternation of the first attack, the natural strength of the country, which, under the management of the great Viriathus, baffled the power of Rome, when in the zenith of her military glory, was judiciously taken advantage of to retard the progress of the invaders; and two surprises of the Spanish armies by General Burgoyne completed the deliverance of Portugal; after which a seasonable fall of heavy rains put a stop to further hostilities, till they were more happily terminated by the conclusion of a general peace.

In the meantime an expedition, against the most important possession of Spain in the eastern world, was undertaken at Madras under the command of General Draper and Admiral Cornish, who with a small force made an attack upon Manilla, the capital of fourteen valuable and important islands in the Indian ocean, subject to the crown of Spain, and the entrepot of a very limited, but very rich and lucrative, commerce with America, the Indian islands, China, Japan, &c. which, with all its dependencies, surrendered on the same day that the British forces completed the expulsion of the Spaniards from Portugal. The conquerors permitted the inhabitants to preserve their property, and even their own government, on condition of paying a ransom of a million of sterling money. The ransom, however, has never been paid; and they would have reaped nothing but barren laurels from their victory, if two frigates detached from the squadron had not taken a galleon, which had some time before sailed from Manilla for Acapulco with a cargo valued at about half a million sterling.

Thus in the course of a few short months were the Spaniards bereaved of their most capital possession in the West-Indies, and of all their dominions in the East-Indies, upon which the whole system of their commerce and revenue in the two hemispheres depended; their vast unweildy empire lay bleeding at every vein; and, for some time at least, they might desist from their empty boast, that the sun never sets in their dominions.

The immediate restoration of Manilla and the islands dependent on it, in consequence of the peace, prevented the conquest of them from having any effect upon the British commerce. Neither could it have any influence upon the treaty of peace, which was concluded before the news of it reached Europe.

Notwithstanding the flattering accounts given by Doctor Busching of the great improvements in trade and manufactures effected in the Prussian dominions by the French, Swiss, and German, refugees, we may venture to say, that trade was held in contempt, and consequently very far from being in a flourishing condition, where a representative of the sovereign could issue the following proclamation.

*Proclamation by the Prussian governor of Freyberg.*

‘Whereas I have been informed, that some of the inhabitants of Freyberg, and particularly certain merchants, have taken it into their heads to forge, and publish for true, reports to the disadvantage of the arms of Prussia, I declare by these presents, that the first who shall dare to utter one sentence, either to the disadvantage, or the advantage, of the Prussian arms, shall be taken up, and punished as a spy.

‘It is an indecency not to be suffered for burghers to presume to talk of state affairs, in which such pitiful creatures can do neither good nor harm. But I shall certainly take rigorous methods to make an example in terrorem. Every burgher who favours the desertion of any of my men, shall be treated as a deserter himself. The magistrates must take care to curb the burghers more vigilantly than they have hitherto done, otherways I shall make them accountable for all the malevolent reports which may be published, as it is their duty to watch over the conduct of the merchants as well as the other citizens. It belongs not to such as they are to interfere in the affairs of war or peace, and much less in the good or bad success of the belligerent powers.’

We have not, I believe, any specimen of the contempt of trade among the antient Roman plunderers, that comes quite up to the spirit of this capital production of modern despotic insolence. What would we think of a British officer, who should presume to speak or write in such a manner?

The preliminaries of peace were signed at Fontainebleau on the 3d of November, and the ratification was exchanged at Versailles on the 22d, so that the war may be said to be now at an end. It was stipulated, that all prizes taken six weeks after the ratification, beyond the Channel, in the British seas, in the North sea, in the Mediterranean, and the Atlantic ocean, as far as the Canary islands, should be restored on both

sides ; as should also all vessels taken three months after it beyond the Canaries as far as the Equinoctial line, and all those taken six months after it in any part of the world beyond the Equinoctial line.

Soon after the publication of this happy intelligence, a free intercourse with France by the packet was permitted.

Hitherto the signs, and the gutters for conveying the rain water from the roofs of the houses, had projected in a most unseemly and inconvenient manner into the streets of London. But a law was now made for the removal of these nuisances, and for affixing the names of the streets on every corner, with a penalty of 40*s* on every one who should efface any such name. [3 *Geo. III, c. 23*] It is a pity, that this excellent regulation of civic police is not more strictly enforced. Perhaps it is not asserting too much to say, that the convenience and ease proceeding from the names on the corners of the streets, and the numbers on the doors of houses, constitute one of the most essential differences between a great city inhabited by a well regulated and polished people, and a great mass of buildings possessed by a people only emerging from a state of barbarism.

The following particulars of the public expenditure of this year deserve our attention, as being connected with the interests of commerce.

|   |         |    |    |
|---|---------|----|----|
| For the civil establishment of Nova Scotia, -   | £5684   | 1  | 10 |
| For the civil establishment of Georgia, -   | 4057    | 10 | 0  |
| (Of which £1000 to be given in bounties for the cultivation of silk, as before.)                      |         |    |    |
| Compensation to North-American provinces for their expenses in levying troops to oppose the French, - | 133,333 | 6  | 8  |
| Allowed to the East-India company, towards the expense of their military establishment, -             | 20,000  | 0  | 0  |
| To the city of London for improving the bridge, -   | 15,000  | 0  | 0  |
| For maintaining the British forts on the coast of Africa, -   | 13,000  | 0  | 0  |
| To the British museum, -  | 2000    | 0  | 0  |
| (This grant, with sometimes a different sum, is repeated every year.)                                 |         |    |    |
| For a bridge over the Tweed at Coldstream, -  | 4000    | 0  | 0  |

The following is a retrospect of the export trade of the old East-India company, extracted from accounts made up at various times by their own accountant.



In the year ending 29th September

|      |   |   |         |
|------|---|---|---------|
| 1699 | - | - | 8 ships |
| 1700 | - | - | 10 —    |
| 1701 | - | - | 14 —    |

| British manufac-<br>tures, &c. * | Foreign bullion †<br>and goods. | Total.         |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| £40,674 11 0                     | £286,720 8 8                    | £327,394 19 8½ |
| 60,028 7 0                       | 280,042 15 8                    | 340,071 2 8    |
| 75,527 19 9                      | 438,610 4 0                     | 514,138 3 9    |

And the following retrospect shews the exports of the present company; and is in like manner compiled from the returns of their accountants.

|  | British manufac-<br>tures, stores, &c. | Bullion.      | Total.         |
|--|--|---------------|----------------|
| Average of 10 years, ending 29th Sep-<br>tember - - - - - 1724 } | £99,410 12 10                          | £518,102 11 0 | £617,513 3 10  |
| of 9 years ending in - - - - - 1733                              | 105,699 16 5                           | 510,131 17 0  | 615,831 13 5   |
| of 8 years ending in - - - - - 1741                              | 157,944 4 7                            | 476,852 2 9   | 634,796 7 4    |
| of 7 years ending in - - - - - 1748                              | 188,176 16 2                           | 548,711 19 2  | 736,888 15 4   |
| of 3 years ending in - - - - - 1751                              | 165,757 3 2                            | 605,376 18 0  | 771,134 1 2    |
| of 3 years ending in - - - - - 1755                              | 340,917 19 11                          | 815,514 7 7   | 1,156,432 7 6  |
| 1 year ending September - - - - - 1756                           | 226,131 1 3                            | 620,378 16 8  | 846,509 17 11  |
| - - - - - 1757   | 314,947 4 11                           | 795,007 18 11 | 1,109,955 3 10 |
| - - - - - 1758   | 285,070 13 10                          | 456,252 13 3  | 741,323 7 1    |
| - - - - - 1759   | 327,332 7 6                            | 172,604 8 0   | 499,936 15 6   |
| - - - - - 1760   | 334,416 6 6                            | 142,022 8 0   | 477,338 14 6   |

It was observed by Mr. James, the secretary of the East-India company, that in the four years ending with 29th September 1762 the quantity of bullion, exported by the company, fell short of what was exported in the four years ending with the 29th September 1758, £2,106,780 : 8 : 1, while the amount of woollen manufactures exported, exceeded that of the preceding four years by £386,625 : 2 : 11, and that there was also a great increase in the last four years of the quantity of copper shipped, the excess of that article, which is a new branch of the East-India trade, being £108,521 : 10 : 2.

\* The customs and other charges are included in the cost of the goods.

† The bullion consisted chiefly of Spanish dollars, rated at 5s sterling; the goods consisted of foreign stationary ware, wine, medicines, &c.

‡ Part of the exports of 1699 were for the use of an embassy, for which the company also shipped onboard his Majesty's ship Harwich goods and money to the amount of £5,559 : 14 : 11.

|| The ships were consigned as follows :

|      | Coromandel. | Bengal. | Coromandel<br>and Bengal. | Surat. | China. | Limpoo in<br>China. | Canton in<br>China. | Amoy in<br>China. | Limpoo and<br>Borneo. | Borneo. | Moco. |
|------|-------------|---------|---------------------------|--------|--------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------|-------|
| 1699 | 1           | 1       | 1                         | 3      | 1      | 0                   | 0                   | 0                 | 0                     | 1       | 0     |
| 1700 | 1           | 1       | 1                         | 2      | 0      | 2                   | 0                   | 0                 | 1                     | 2       | 0     |
| 1701 | 3           | 2       | 0                         | 2      | 0      | 1                   | 3                   | 1                 | 0                     | 1       | 1     |

The increase of the woollen manufactures and the copper he ascribes to the interruption of the French trade in India during the war, as well as to the constant endeavours of the company, to send out as large proportions of the manufactures and produce of Great Britain as possible, in preference to gold and bullion.

He further accounts for the decrease of bullion in the last four years, partly by the great sums paid to the company by the country princes in pursuance of treaties, but chiefly by the larger sums paid into the company's treasuries by individuals, who had acquired fortunes, which they wished to remit home by bills of exchange on the company in England.

In the year 1761 the Hudson's-bay company, induced by the general opinion, that the opening, called Chesterfield inlet, afforded a considerable prospect of a passage into the Pacific ocean, dispatched a sloop under the command of Captain Christopher to explore it. On his return he reported, that he had navigated the inlet for more than 150 miles in a westerly direction, till he found the water perfectly fresh, but that he had not explored the head of it.

In order to put an end to every doubt, he was again sent, in company with Mr. Norton, this year, with orders to trace it to its source, if practicable. They found that the fresh-water river was the outlet of a lake, which was 24 miles long, and 6 or 7 broad, and that a river flowed into the lake from the west, which they also explored in boats, till their further progress was prevented by falls. So it was ascertained that no passage was to be found in that direction\*.

A proof of the increase of inhabitants, and of the commercial prosperity of London may be drawn from the quantity of coals imported which amounted this year to 570,774 chaldrons; almost double the quantity of the annual importation in the early part of this century.

The following account of the exports of South-Carolina may be useful for comparing the progressive prosperity of that province.

|   |             | From November 1760<br>to September 1761. | From 23d December 1761<br>to 1st September 1762. |
|---|-------------|--|--|
| Rice  | - barrels   | 100,000                                  | 62,288   |
| Indigo  | - pounds    | 399,366                                  | 249,000  |
| Pitch   | - - barrels | 6,376                                    | 3,110  |
| Tar   | - -         | 931                                      | 1,119  |
| Turpentine                                      | -           | 4,808                                    | 751  |
| Rosin   | -           |  | 19   |
| Oranges (besides 161,000<br>loose ones in 1761) | —           | 144                                      | 4  |

\* The account of these two voyages, which have escaped the researches of Forster, the author of the *History of voyages and discoveries in the North*, is extracted from *Goldson's Observations on the passage between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans*.

|   | From November 1760<br>to September 1761. | From 23d December, 1761<br>to 1st September 1762. |
|---|--|---|
| Pork and beef (almost all<br>pork) - barrels                          | 1,149                                    | 2,296   |
| Bacon - _____   | 13                                       | 1,648 lb.   |
| Hams - - - _____  |  | 5   |
| Fish - - - _____  |  | 41  |
| Indian corn and peas (most-<br>ly corn) - bushels                     | 11,126                                   | 27,174  |
| Oats - - - _____  |  | 388   |
| Deer skins in hogheads, in<br>casks, in bundles, and<br>loose - - - - | 422 h. 331 b. 300 l.                     | 331 h. 12 c. 215 b. 1043 l.                       |
| Tanned leather - fides  | 5,869                                    | 2,693   |
| Bees-wax - pounds   | 6,721                                    | 6 casks   |
| Myrtle-wax candles - boxes  |  | 14  |
| Staves - - - pieces   | 236,850                                  | 157,880   |
| Hoops - - - _____   | 29,600                                   | 14,500  |
| Shingles - - - _____  | 522,167                                  | 674,750   |
| Timber, boards, &c. - feet  | 466,186                                  | 103,293   |
| Laths - - - pieces  |  | 3,500   |
| Reeds - - - _____   |  | 400   |
| Handspikes - - - _____  |  | 360   |
| Furs in hogheads, barrels,<br>and bundles -                           |  | 1 h. 2 bar. 1 bund.                               |
| Pink-root - - - cask  |  | 1   |
| Potatoes - - - bushels  |  | 20  |
| Soap - - - boxes  |  | 100   |
| Tallow - - - barrels  |  | 32  |
| Butter - - - kegs   |  | 80  |
| Tobacco - - - hogheads  |  | 14  |

The following articles were exported from Georgia from 5th January 1762 to 5th January 1763.

|                                     |         |                   |
|-------------------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| Rice in barrels and half barrels    |         | 7440 b. 119 h. b. |
| Rough rice (i. e. with the husk on) | bushels | 776               |
| Indigo - - - -                      | pounds  | 9,633             |
| Tar - - - -                         | barrels | 246               |
| Pork - - - -                        |         | 292               |
| Beef - - - -                        |         | 38                |
| Indian corn - - -                   | bushels | 1250              |
| Deer skins in hogheads and bundles  |         | 96 h. 832 b.      |
| Beaver skins - - -                  | bundles | 13                |
| Tanned leather - - -                | fides   | 1,602             |

|                    |   |   |   |        |         |
|--------------------|---|---|---|--------|---------|
| Staves and heading | - | - | - | pieces | 359,002 |
| Hoops              | - | - | - |        | 10,500  |
| Shingles           | - | - | - |        | 688,045 |
| Pine timber        | - | - | - | feet   | 417,449 |
| Handspikes         | - | - | - | pieces | 1,050   |
| Bars               | - | - | - |        | 2,033   |

It is to be observed, that in these colonies the manufacture of lumber, comprehending timber, staves, shingles, &c. and also pitch, tar, and other commodities procured from trees, the natural growth of the soil, was merely a part of the process of clearing the ground; and the comparison of the exports of South-Carolina for only these two years shews, that a considerable quantity of ground was cleared in 1762, which was in a state of nature in 1761 in that province.

The oranges exported from Carolina are of a kind called bitter-sweet, very different from the sweet kind, which we call China oranges. The later kind are carried to Carolina from the West-India islands.

Georgia was yet in its infancy; and the whole goods imported from it to Great Britain this year, were not equal in value to the quantity of cotton, a new and most valuable article of its produce, which sometimes comes now (1799) in one consignment to a single merchant in the city connected with that country.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Christmas 1761 to Christmas 1762 was as follows.

| Countries, &c.     | Imported into |              |  | Exported from   |              |  |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|--|-----------------|--------------|--|
|                    | ENGLAND.      | SCOTLAND.    |  | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.    |  |
| Africa             | £30,540 16 3  |              |  | £273,127 18 7   |              |  |
| Canaries           | 1,912 19 0    |              |  | 370 0 9         |              |  |
| Denmark and Norway | 70,474 16 1   | £25,911 0 10 |  | 142,052 9 8     | £16,860 8 3  |  |
| East Country       | 105,373 8 10  |              |  | 298,776 6 2     |              |  |
| East-India         | 972,838 11 7  |              |  | 1,067,353 13 0  |              |  |
| Flanders           | 25,252 1 11   |              |  | 360,462 6 10    | 3,120 17 11  |  |
| France             | 12 2 7        |              |  | 171,535 18 10   | 160,754 8 4  |  |
| Germany            | 516,489 9 6   | 9,621 7 2    |  | 2,435,106 5 3   | 90,057 0 2   |  |
| Greenland          | 4,217 11 8    |              |  | 17 3 1          |              |  |
| Holland            | 493,944 14 2  | 84,887 4 1   |  | 2,107,957 16 11 | 321,060 19 7 |  |
| Ireland            | 889,368 6 10  | 115,358 10 1 |  | 1,528,696 6 10  | 153,462 14 1 |  |
| Iceland            |               | 12 14 4      |  |                 | 21 2 6       |  |
| Mann               |               | 2 0 0        |  |                 | 1,866 15 9   |  |
| Italy              | 508,951 14 5  |              |  | 509,517 13 10   | 3,577 10 0   |  |
| Madeira            | 3,729 19 7    |              |  | 43,232 6 5      | 216 5 0      |  |
| Poland             |               | 11,412 2 1   |  |                 | 2,115 6 4    |  |
| Prussia            |               | 3,460 12 6   |  |                 |              |  |
| Portugal           | 359,127 14 8  | 6,274 1 1    |  | 908,729 2 9     | 165 5 0      |  |
| Russia             | 627,451 19 1  | 51,163 11 0  |  | 61,509 19 8     | 326 2 6      |  |
| Spain              | 131,279 7 1   | 472 6 7      |  | 139,580 19 5    | 1,354 18 9   |  |
| Straits            | 11,876 17 10  |              |  | 58,964 12 9     |              |  |
| Sweden             | 201,160 3 0   | 22,315 16 9  |  | 17,507 13 7     | 5,068 14 2   |  |
| Turkey             | 71,761 9 9    |              |  | 63,738 19 5     |              |  |
| Venice             | 9,916 0 8     |              |  | 32,246 18 5     |              |  |

| Countries, &c.   | Imported into  |               | Exported from  |             |
|--|----------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|
|  | ENGLAND.       | SCOTLAND.     | ENGLAND.       | SCOTLAND.   |
| Guernsey, &c.  | £ 127,682 1 2  | £ 2,924 8 4   | £ 44,481 11 11 | £ 25 5 0    |
| Belle-isle   | 715 3 0        |               | 21,625 7 9     |             |
| America in general   |                | 326,347 17 11 |                | 169,962 9 9 |
| Hudson's bay   | 12,119 14 5    |               | 4,122 2 9      |             |
| Newfoundland   | 23,436 8 11    |               | 35,387 13 1    |             |
| Quebec   | 32,079 9 6     |               | 148,478 4 2    |             |
| Nova Scotia  | 1,144 6 5      |               | 25,071 2 4     |             |
| New-England  | 41,733 17 6    |               | 247,385 18 3   |             |
| New-York   | 58,882 6 5     |               | 288,046 16 10  |             |
| Pennsylvania   | 38,091 2 2     |               | 206,199 18 8   |             |
| Virginia and Maryland  | 415,709 10 9   |               | 417,599 15 6   |             |
| Carolina   | 181,695 10 3   |               | 194,170 14 1   |             |
| Georgia  | 6,322 17 7     |               | 23,761 8 10    |             |
| West-Indies in general   |                | 49,761 16 7   |                | 68,149 2 8  |
| Antigua  | 249,367 0 9    |               | 125,323 9 0    |             |
| Barbados   | 254,860 17 6   |               | 213,177 4 5    |             |
| Bermuda  | 988 13 0       |               | 7,786 7 0      |             |
| Grenada  | 26,560 16 9    |               | 119 6 1        |             |
| Guadaloupe   | 513,244 9 9    |               | 170,226 9 1    |             |
| Havanna  |                |               | 116,777 9 11   |             |
| Jamaica  | 852,777 14 0   |               | 460,631 16 0   |             |
| Martinique   | 288,425 8 8    |               | 166,196 2 5    |             |
| Montserrat   | 57,122 6 0     |               | 23,895 9 11    |             |
| Nevis  | 42,095 3 8     |               | 9,066 6 3      |             |
| New-Providence   | 1,902 7 3      |               |                |             |
| St. Croix  | 4,464 4 10     |               | 6,254 6 9      |             |
| St. Christophers   | 246,360 16 0   |               | 102,627 2 10   |             |
| St. Thomas   |                |               | 525 16 5       |             |
| Tortola  | 33,265 3 6     |               | 2,052 0 1      |             |
| Monte Christi  | 20,487 8 0     |               |                |             |
| British and Irish linens<br>exported on bounty to<br>various countries |                |               | 29,331 19 9    |             |
| Prize goods  | 302,819 10 0   |               | 235,364 8 9    |             |
| Imp. and exp. of England   | 8,870,234 14 3 |               | 13,545,171 1 0 |             |
| Imp. and exp. of Scotland  | 708,925 9 4    | 708,925 9 4   | 998,165 5 9    | 998,165 5 9 |
| Total, Great Britain,  | 9,579,160 3 7  |               | 14,543,336 6 9 |             |

There belonged this year to all the ports

|                 |      |                                   |         |       |
|-----------------|------|-----------------------------------|---------|-------|
| of England      | 5915 | vessels of the reputed burthen of | 402,740 | tuns. |
| and of Scotland | 964  | -                                 | 53,046  |       |
| Total           | 6879 |                                   | 455,786 |       |

The net amount of the customs, including the West-India four-and-a-half per cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the course of this year, was from the custom-house in London, - £1,854,217 0 8 and from the custom-house in Edinburgh - 4,200 0 0

Total net revenue of the customs of Great Britain £1,858,417 0 8

There were coined at the mint in the course of the year  
 11,850 pounds of gold, value - - - - - £553,691 5 0  
 and 1,020 pounds of silver - - - - - 3,162 0 0

£556,853 5 0

1763—The definitive treaty of peace was concluded at Paris on the 10th of February; and it was proclaimed with the usual solemnities at London on the 22d of March, and in all other parts of the British dominions as soon as the proclamation arrived at them.

By this treaty

Article IV) France ceded to Great Britain Nova-Scotia (or Acadia) with all its dependencies, Canada with all its dependencies, Cape Breton, and all the islands in the gulf of St. Laurence; the French inhabitants having their option to remain and become British subjects, with liberty to enjoy their own religion, 'as far as the laws of Great Britain permit,' or to sell their estates to British subjects, settle their affairs, and depart with their moveable property within eighteen months, to be computed from the ratification of the treaty.

V) The French had liberty to fish and to dry their fish on a part of the coast of Newfoundland, as specified in the 13th article of the treaty of Utrecht, and to fish in the Gulf of St. Laurence at the distance of at least three leagues from all the coasts and islands belonging to Great Britain, and in the sea adjacent to Cape Breton, which island they were not to approach within fifteen leagues; the fishery on the coast of Nova-Scotia and other places not adjacent to the Gulf of St. Laurence remaining as settled in former treaties.

VI) The islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, (near Newfoundland) were ceded to the French for a shelter to their fishermen, with an express engagement, however, that no fortifications should be erected, nor any military force be stationed on them, except a guard of fifty men, merely for the police.

VII) In order to prevent all disputes concerning boundaries, a line, drawn through the middle of the river Mississippi, from its source down to the branch, or mouth, of it called the Iberville, and through the middle of that branch and the lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain to the sea, was declared to be the fixed and irrevocable limit, the port of Mobile with all the country on the east side belonging to Great Britain, and New Orleans with its island and the country on the west side belonging to France; the navigation of the Mississippi being perfectly free to both nations from its source to the sea, notwithstanding that both its banks near its mouth are in the territory reserved to France.

VIII) The islands of Guadaloupe, Marie-galante, Desirade, and Martinique, in the West-Indies, and Belle-isle near the coast of France were restored to France, the British subjects settled in them having eighteen



months allowed them to wind up their affairs and sell or remove their property; for which purpose British vessels, not exceeding a limited number and tonnage, were permitted to make one voyage each to those islands under certain stipulated regulations.

IX) The islands of Grenada and the Grenadines were ceded to Great Britain, with the same stipulations in favour of the inhabitants respecting their religion and property, that were provided for those of Canada by the fourth article. Of the neutral islands, St. Vincent, Dominica, and Tobago, were ceded in full right to Great Britain, and St. Lucia to France.

X) On the coast of Africa Goree was restored to France: and the river Senegal with all its rights and dependencies, together with the forts and factories of St. Louis, Podor, and Galam, were ceded to Great Britain.

XI) In the East Indies Great Britain restored to the French the factories they possessed at the beginning of the year 1749 in Coromandel, Orixá, Malabar, and Bengal, they renouncing all pretensions to any places in Coromandel and Orixá acquired since 1749, and restoring all places taken from Great Britain in the present war, and especially Natall and Tapanouly (or Bencoolen) in the island of Sumatra, and engaging to establish no forts or garrisons in Bengal.

XII) France restored the island of Minorca to Great Britain.

XVII) The king of Great Britain engaged to destroy the fortifications erected in the Bay of Honduras and other Spanish territories in America; the king of Spain engaging that the subjects of Great Britain should not be molested in cutting or shipping logwood.

XVIII) Spain, having no conquests to restore, yet desirous of appearing to concede something, gave up a claim, said to be made by the people of Guipuscoa, to a right of fishing in the neighbourhood of Newfoundland\*.

XIX) Great Britain restored to Spain the Havanna with the annexed large district of the island of Cuba, the British settlers having eighteen months allowed to prepare for their departure on the same terms agreed on for the evacuation of the islands ceded to France by the eighth article.

XX) Spain ceded to Great Britain Florida, comprehending all the country between the river Mississippi and the British province of Georgia, except the town and island of New Orleans belonging to France, the inhabitants being allowed to remain and enjoy their religion, or retire in eighteen months, as stipulated for the French Canadians by the fourth article.

The other articles of the treaty relate to arrangements on the conti-

\* Such a claim had been mentioned in the treaty of the year 1713, when it was allowed to lie over-unexplained.

nent of Europe, the decision of disputes respecting prize ships, the time fixed for executing the several cessions of territory, &c.

The peace, though it was differently received by the different parties, who, in all free governments, take opposite sides upon every question of great importance, must be allowed to have been very advantageous to Great Britain, in so far as it completely accomplished the object, for which the war was professedly undertaken, the perfect security of the British colonies in North America from the encroachments of the French; who, as well as the Spaniards, were now far removed from their neighbourhood, and from any power, or opportunity, of giving them the smallest uneasiness on the subject of disputable frontiers. Though many islands taken from the enemy in the West-Indies were restored, yet Great Britain retained at the peace a number of newly-acquired islands; perhaps more than the population and capital of the mother country were capable to people and cultivate immediately without some inconvenience. The arrangements in Asia were very favourable to our East-India company. And in Africa we obtained the exclusive trade in gum senegal, an article of great use in many manufactures: nor was the increased demand, which the settlement of the new tropical territories would occasion for negro slaves, neglected by the advocates for the terms of the peace, in enumerating the advantages resulting from it.

Besides, it ought to be remembered, that, though Great Britain was enabled by a progressive increase of commerce, even during the heaviest pressure of hostilities, to carry on the war at an expense, which, not very many years before, it would have been supposed utterly impossible to support, and in a triumphant manner, which to a nation of mere warriors, such as the antient Romans, might have been even lucrative, yet neither the supplies of men nor money could hold out forever. A peace was therefor necessary, that the strength and resources of the nation might be allowed to recruit, independent of the interests of humanity, and, I may add, of commerce, which required that the world should repose from the toils of war, and the horrors of slaughter and devastation.

The lieutenants of the navy made a proposition to the lords of the admiralty for keeping in employment two hundred and fifty of the frigates and armed ships, to be commanded and manned by 1500 officers of the navy and 17,500 seamen, to be paid by the government, and to be sent upon the whale fishery at Greenland and Davis's straits. Estimating by the profits made by the Dutch in that fishery, they calculated the profit to the nation at £100,000 yearly, besides the advantage of keeping up a nursery of seamen, and having so many hands actually in the service of government ready upon any emergency, without distressing the merchant service. The project, however, was not approved of;

and it may be doubted, whether the additional number of whales caught could be in proportion to so great an additional number of ships going in quest of them, or, if they should be caught, whether there would be consumption for the oil, &c. The arithmetical rule of three is not in all cases infallible.

The empress of Russia published an edict inviting foreigners of all nations and religions, except Jews, to settle in any part of her empire, with perfect liberty of conscience, and even a permission to be governed by laws framed by themselves. She moreover promised them money and materials for building, and for carrying on trades; with an exemption from taxes for a certain number of years. Such encouragement to industrious strangers, if persevered in, would soon civilize and enrich that vast empire.

Though petty acts of piracy are frequently committed, there are few instances, in the present improved state of maritime power, of any vessels cruising as professed pirates to make war upon all nations indiscriminately. About this time, however, some such, manned with gangs of ruffians of all nations, made their appearance in the West-Indies; but they were soon suppressed. This pirating was a dreg of the war.

Some considerable improvements were made in the methods of extracting water from mines, coal-pits, &c. One was by a large cylinder of iron measuring 74 inches in the bore, made at the foundery at Coalbrook dale in Shropshire, which enables the fire-engine to deliver 307 hundred-weight of water at every stroke. Another was by a new engine working with horizontal wind sails, capable of raising to the height of thirty feet from eight to twenty hogsheads of water, according to the force of the wind, at every stroke. About the same time a saw-mill was invented, which could work either by wind or water, for which the society for the encouragement of arts and commerce gave a premium of an hundred guineas to Mr. Stansfield of Bingley.

March 24<sup>th</sup>—The law for the regulation of the price of bread by the magistrates was extended to Scotland. [3 *Geo. III*, c. 6.]

The outstanding debts of the navy, the victualling and transport bills, and ordnance debentures, amounting to £3,670,739 : 2 : 8 were funded, with an annual interest of four per cent, payable at the bank, to be reckoned from the 25th of March 1763. [3 *Geo. III*, c. 9.]

There were other unsettled claims upon the public for the expenses of the war, for the satisfaction of which other supplies were necessary. Therefor, besides drawing £2,000,000 from the sinking fund, and issuing £1,800,000 in exchequer bills, it was resolved to raise money by a loan and two lotteries. The loan was for £2,800,000 bearing interest at four per cent from 5th April 1763, the subscribers moreover receiving, as a douceur, a lottery ticket at the price of £10 for every £100 subscribed. The lotteries were for £350,000 each, both to be drawn

in the year 1763, the prizes in which (being nearly the same as in the last lottery) were to be stock bearing four per cent interest, and the blanks were to be rated at £5; that is to say, they were entitled to an annual income of four shillings each.

March 31<sup>st</sup>—In order to provide for the interest of the new funded debts, an additional duty of £8 per tun was laid on French wine and vinegar, and £4 per tun on all other wine and vinegar, payable upon importation; also £2 per tun on foreign cyder and perry imported, and four shillings per hoghead on cyder and perry made in Great Britain. [3 *Geo. III*, c. 12.]

As soon as the proposal for laying a duty of excise upon cyder and perry was publicly known, an outcry was raised against it, which was more violent, and more general, than any similar explosion of discontent since the year 1733, when a great minister was on the point of falling a sacrifice to an excise scheme. The tax was reprobated as partial and oppressive, laying the burthens of the whole nation upon that part of the country where those liquors were used, and grossly violating the liberty of the people, by subjecting their houses to the visitation and search of revenue officers. The clamour, though vehemently supported by the city of London, however, died away, and the tax took place. It must be acknowledged, that the drinkers of cyder and perry ought to contribute to the national expenditure, as well as the drinkers of malt liquor; and if they had hitherto been indulged or overlooked, that was no good reason for a continuance of the exemption. After all, the duty was lighter than that on malt liquor; private persons, upon paying a composition according to the number of their families, were exempted from the visitation of the excise officers; and occupiers of houses rated not above forty shillings a year to the land tax, or making not above four hogheads in the year, were entirely exempted from paying any duty: so that it was upon the whole probably as unexceptionable as any excise duty can possibly be.

As an instance of the opulence and liberality of the East, we may briefly notice the will of Omichund, an eminent black merchant at Calcutta, wherein legacies were bequeathed to charitable institutions in many different parts of the world, and among the rest considerably above £5000 to the Magdalen and Foundling hospitals of London, which money was actually remitted by his executor.

The encouragement for indigo produced in the British plantations, was continued till the 25th of March 1770, and thence to the end of the next session of parliament; but the bounty was now reduced to four pence a pound, to commence from the expiration of the time limited for the former bounty.

So much were the Venetians now reduced from their antient dominion in the Mediterranean sea, that they paid down 50,000 ducats, and

moreover agreed to pay 5000 more every year, to the Algerines, for permitting *only fifteen* Venetian ships to trade freely in the Mediterranean. These fifteen ships must carry on a very great, and a very lucrative trade, to enable them to pay so heavy a tribute \*.

The Genoese, the antient rivals of the Venetians in commerce and maritime power, were also so much sunk from their former condition, that they were not able to keep the island, (or, as they affected to call it, their kingdom) of Corsica in subjection, the consequence of which was, that they made over their title in the sovereignty of it to France. The event, which is foreign to the plan of this work, is sufficiently known.

The lords of trade and plantations, in their report to the king upon the advantages to be derived from the territories vested in Great Britain by the peace, observed, that hitherto the British fishermen had been excluded from the fishery of the River St. Laurence, and of the coasts and islands of the Gulf of St. Laurence, by the treaty of Utrecht, which gave the French the sole right to that most valuable fishery called by them the 'peche sedentaire' (sedentary fishery): but that, since these coasts had fallen into our hands by the reduction of Quebec, the capture of whales, sea-cows, seals, &c. was already carried on by British subjects to a greater extent than it ever was by the French; and the extensive trade with the Eskimeaux Indians for oil and furs, hitherto enjoyed by the French, must now fall into our hands by the annexation of Labrador to the government of Newfoundland. The islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, reserved to France by the treaty, being destitute of wood and water, and incapable of raising provisions, could never enable the French to carry on a prosperous fishery; but they might be the seat of a most pernicious contraband trade, if not watched with the utmost vigilance. The fur trade, if we except that of the Hudson's-bay company, and some skin trade in the provinces of New-York and Carolina, had hitherto been almost engrossed by the French, who, contrary to the stipulations of the treaty of Utrecht, took possession of all the great lakes communicating with the River St. Laurence, whereby all intercourse between the Indian tribes and the British provinces was cut off. By the total cession of North America the whole of this trade must now be free to the subjects of Great Britain, who being relieved from the interruptions of the French and the French Indians, would undoubtedly carry the trade to an extent hitherto unknown, whereby a demand must be created for vast quantities of British manufactures to be exchanged

\* From Chandler's Travels I find, that in the Mediterranean the Venetian vessels are generally remarked and ridiculed for their slow sailing; and of course they must fall a sacrifice to every hostile vessel of sufficient force, that can get sight of them. Surely nautical science must have remained

stationary among the Venetians, who about 600 years ago were the greatest maritime power in Europe, while other nations, who then had scarcely any shipping, have been continually improving in it.

with the Indians for their furs and skins \*. Another great advantage, to be derived from those territories, is the prodigious stores of wood in the northern regions fit for masts to the royal navy, and for boards, staves, &c. so necessary in the sugar colonies.

Florida, the new-acquired province in the southern part of North America, was represented as capable of producing indigo, silk, and many of the tropical productions.

The new-acquired islands in the West-Indies promised a great increase of sugar, coffee, cotton, and other tropical produce, of which our old-settled islands scarcely afford a sufficiency for our own increasing consumption.

The advantage pointed out, as the result of our acquisition on the coast of Africa, was the security of the gum trade from the monopoly of it, which was lately in the hands of the French by their possession of the River Senegal.

Such, according to the observations of their lordships, were the obvious advantages to be expected from the territories ceded to Great Britain by the definitive treaty of peace, which could only be secured by an immediate establishment of regular governments with sufficient strength to encourage new settlers, and to protect the former inhabitants in the enjoyment of the rights and privileges reserved to them by the treaty.

That part of the report, which respects the fishery in the Gulf of St. Laurence, was confirmed by the success of the New-England whale-fishers, who in the year 1761 employed in it ten vessels of about 100 tons, in 1762 fifteen, and in 1763 above eighty vessels; whereupon the increase of the quantity of whale-bone imported from New-England to Britain reduced the price of that article from £500 to £350 a tun.

An improved method of curing salmon with spices was discovered by Mr. Alexander Cockburn, fishmonger in Berwick, for which he obtained a patent.

So eager are the Dutch for a regale of herrings at the beginning of the season, that two barrels were sold at 570 guilders (£52 sterling), and 12 $\frac{3}{4}$  were sold at 460 guilders (about £42), being a parcel dispatched from Shetland at the beginning of the fishery. It is well worth their while to send off so small a cargo, to be sold for above 600 guineas; but the prices, it seems, are not every year quite so high.

About the end of July several merchants in Amsterdam failed for large sums, and their failure was followed by the bankruptcy of a much greater number of others in Hamburgh, and some of the other principal trading towns in Germany, which for some time put almost an entire stop to all business, no one being willing to deliver any goods but

\* The reader will be enabled to judge of the extent of the fur trade of Canada from the accounts of it to be given under the years 1766 and 1787.



for ready money. Many more merchants, who were in good circumstances, would have been obliged to stop payment, if the Lombard houses in Amsterdam and Hamburgh had not assisted them with large advances of cash, and if the magistrates had not wisely interfered, by protecting from arrest the merchants who could make it appear by their books, that they really possessed sufficient funds for the discharge of their debts. On this trying occasion the British merchants acted with the most honourable liberality, by giving larger credits to their correspondents in the hour of their distress, than they had ever done in the season of their prosperity, and even sending large remittances for their support, which they were enabled to do, by the no-less-liberal determination of the bank of England, and the principal bankers, to suspend the payment of their own bills. These generous measures so far restored public credit, that in a few weeks business went on nearly as before.

The failures were by some ascribed to the large sums owing by the British and French armies, and by others to the vast quantity of base money issued by the German princes during the war, for which the merchants had expected to receive the value, or at least a considerable part of the value, it was issued for. It is reasonable to believe, that both these causes co-operated, and that even the peace, by suddenly drawing off the trade enjoyed by those neutral places during the war, might be instrumental in producing a derangement in the affairs of those concerned in it.

The king of Prussia, in order to encourage manufactures in his electoral dominions, prohibited the importation of silks, chintzes, and cottons, and even went so far as to order all such goods already in the country to be exported, under a penalty of 100 crowns for every ell. If his own people were able to supply the demand, such regulations were not impolitic, though the later part was surely too harsh.

The expulsion of the French from North America was not productive of that perfect tranquillity that was expected. The Indians, especially those who had been in the French interest, and whom our people seem to have neglected and despised, more than was consistent either with humanity or good policy, were greatly alarmed at the chain of garrisons established in their country, the intention of which they apprehended to be no less than the ~~extirpation~~ extirpation of the antient possessors. In consequence of this apprehension, a very extensive confederacy was formed among them; and the back settlements of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, were attacked at the time of harvest with an unanimity and effect, of which Indians were not supposed capable. In several engagements our leaders were absolutely out-generalled by the Indian chiefs; and, though at the end of the campaign they were rather checked, we had no reason to boast of our success. All the itinerant traders, who, supposing themselves perfectly secure, were dispersed

through the Indian country, were murdered, and their property seized, to the amount, it is said, of several hundred thousand pounds; the loss of which fell heavy on the principal trading towns in America, and, no doubt, also on their correspondents in Britain.

It is worthy of notice in this work, that a happy expedient was hit upon for making a ship ride easy in a storm at sea, which was effected by launching overboard a spare boom made fast to the end of a hauser. This kind of floating anchor was found to act also as a weather shore in screening the ship, which fell to leeward of it, and rode with her head to the wind, from the fury of the sea, after her main mast was cut away. To a negro seamen the world is indebted for the discovery of this improvement, which is now commonly, and successfully, practised.

The merchants of Liverpool concerned in the exportation of rock-salt to the Austrian Netherlands, and the proprietors of the salt mines in the neighbourhood of that town, were greatly alarmed by the Austrian government reviving the old duties, amounting to a prohibition, upon British salt; in consequence of which many large orders for that commodity were this year countermanded, whereby great confusion and damage were brought upon the trade; and the proprietors of the salt mines, with the great body of people depending upon them, were very much distressed.

In a memorial to the lords of trade they represented, that the exportation of rock-salt from Liverpool to the Austrian Netherlands commenced in the year 1756, when only 30 tuns were sent; that it had increased ever since, and that in the year ending with the 5th April 1763, there were shipped 6979 tuns; that the promising appearance of the trade had induced the proprietors of the mines to lay out great sums in sinking new pits, building store-houses, and barges fit for the conveyance of the salt to Liverpool by an inland navigation of near forty miles; that this new trade had brought along with it a considerable exportation of the produce of the British colonies, and of lead and lead ore, which have all been paid for with ready money; and in this point of view, and as a fund of employment in a temperate climate, for about 7000 seamen, including the barge-men on the inland navigation, and as being, moreover, so much deducted from the commerce of the French; our rivals for trade and power, this trade may deserve to be valued as, perhaps, superior to a West-India colony.

It ought, however, to be observed, that this trade was begun by Mr. Ryngaert, a citizen of Ghent, as an appendage to the tobacco trade, which was his chief object, because he wanted ballast for the ships he was obliged to charter, for carrying his tobacco from Liverpool to Ostend.

Fort-Louis, on the River Senegal, with its dependencies; being delivered by government into the management of the committee of mer-

chants trading to Africa, they appointed a governor to take charge of it, whose duty it was to assist every British trader within the extent of his influence to the utmost of his power, it being the intention of the legislature, that all British subjects should have a free trade upon that coast, according to certain regulations.

The committee of African merchants complained, that the funds allowed by parliament were not near sufficient to repair the various forts, which were all left in ruinous condition by the late royal African company.

If the great advantages that commerce, and most probably British commerce, will, in some future day, derive from a knowledge of the interior regions of Africa, are considered, no apology will be required for inserting the following

*Abridgement of the account of the River Senegal and the adjacent country, from a letter written by Mr. Barnes, governor of Fort-Louis, to the committee of merchants trading to Africa.*

The River Senegal has sufficient depth of water for vessels drawing nine feet, for 86 leagues from its mouth. The best time for going up is the beginning of July, and the voyage takes up from five to eight weeks. The end of October is the best time for the downward passage, which is generally performed in three or four weeks.

At the head of the River Senegal there is a ridge of mountains, beyond which, according to the natives, there is a great river, like the Senegal, called the Black river \*, which runs eastward into a great lake, around which there are settlements of white people †, who have a num-

\* Neel il Abeed (the river of the black people), and Neel il Kibeer (the great river), are the indigenous names of this river, the course of which has so long puzzled geographers. Neel or Nil signifies simply river, and is a very proper name for the one river of Egypt.

† It would be too romantic to hope, that this civilized white nation may be found to be the offspring of a remainder of the Carthaginians. If they should be really Carthaginians, and still retain the literature and science of their ancestors, what a bright stream of illumination might an acquaintance with them throw upon an interesting portion of antient history, which is so miserably defective, from our having heard only one side of the story. It is worthy of observation, that (according to the information received from a negro trader in the upper parts of the Gambia, by a gentleman of veracity and information, formerly employed by the African company, and communicated by Captain Blankett of the navy to the committee of the privy council, when engaged in the consideration of the slave trade,) 'The language spoken by the white men (who are supposed to be Arabs) of Tombuto and Banbara

[or Banibarina], has no affinity with the Arabic or Turkish.' Surely their language having no affinity with the Arabic is no reason for supposing them to be Arabs.

Though Mr. Park's travels in the interior part of Africa did not extend to the great lake, mentioned by Mr. Barnes, nor do any of the conversations he had with the negroes on the banks of the Niger, Neel-ill-Abeed, or Joliba, seem to encourage us to hope for any knowledge of such a white nation on the banks of the great lake; yet the agreement of Mr. Barnes's information with that obtained by Captain Blankett's friend gives us some reason to hope to be made acquainted with such a community of white people. Mr. Barnes, when examined by the committee of privy council, said, that he had been told, that those white people had a fort mounted with guns upon the lake; and people, who had seen them, said that they do not speak Arabic. Though the language of the Arabs was antiently akin to that of the Phœnicians and Carthaginians, we may well suppose, that they are very different now, if the later be really anywhere in existence.

ber of vessels, and carry on an extensive trade upon the lake, and up the river into the country of Bambarina, the chiefs of which are extolled for their politeness and civility.

From this great country comes above one half of the gold, and most of the slaves purchased at Senegal and Gambia, and almost all the slaves and gold of Morocco, Algier, Tunis, and the Levant.

This valuable country might very easily be explored by means of some of the natives of Senegal; and the author of this account is able to point out some men of sense and fidelity, masters of Arabic learning, and every way capable of undertaking the business\*.

November 21<sup>st</sup>—The lords of trade and plantations gave notice, in the London gazette, that all persons desirous of grants of lands in East Florida and West Florida, for the purpose of raising silk, cotton, wine, oil, cochineal, indigo, &c. might apply to Mr. Pownall, their secretary, without delay.

The quantity of silk produced in Georgia this year was only 953 pounds, which was 87 pounds less than the produce of the preceding year†.

Mr. Martin Kuyck Van Mierop, a member of the Russian company, who had been a factor in Persia from the commencement of the trade to the termination of it (nine years), represented as proofs of the great advantages to be derived from the trade to Persia through Russia, that it was carried on entirely with British manufactures, tin, cochineal, indigo, and coral beads, but that nineteen parts in twenty of the whole value consisted of woollen goods, and that no money nor bills were required—that almost the whole of the returns to England were in raw silk—that the silk sent to Europe by the Russian and Armenian merchants, owing to unfair packing, sold 20 per cent lower than what is sent by the English factors. The roads from Ghilan to Smyrna and Aleppo being utterly impassable during the convulsions in Persia, it is now impossible for the Turkey company to import any silk; therefore it is of the utmost consequence, that liberty be secured by the treaty, now negotiating with Russia, to carry on that trade‡.

\* With Mr. Barnes's account of the interior part of Africa agrees that of Mr. George Glas, a navigator, (but originally bred to medicine) who, by residing in South Barbary, acquired considerable knowledge of the trade of the country. We shall afterwards find Mr. Glas proposing to open a new channel of trade on the African coast.

† There was an account, published in the newspapers, of 15,000 pounds of cocoons being brought to the silature in Georgia, which was held out as a proof of the great advantage of that culture, and of the prosperity of the province. The writer of that paragraph was not aware of the great number of pounds of cocoons required to make one pound of silk.

‡ The first treaty with Russia, after this time, was in the year 1766, and no such trade is mentioned in it.

The route recommended by Mr. Van Mierop is actually used by the Armenians in their trade between Persia and Holland, if I am rightly informed. And the same route was recommended to the English Russia company in the year 1740, by Captain Elton, who was acquainted with the navigation of the Caspian sea. At their desire he made a journey into Persia, by the route he proposed, and obtained from Risan Guleo Mirsa, the eldest son of Nadir Shach, and sole regent of Persia, a most favourable grant of trade for the 'Ho-

On an average of nine years experience, he estimates the proceeds of a bale of cloth, which costs, with freight and duty in Russia, £106 : 14, to be, when returned in raw silk, £357 : 13 : 1, subject to duties and charges amounting to £92 : 4 : 9, so that there remains a net profit of £158 : 14 : 4.

From all these considerations he strongly recommended the revival of the trade though Russia.

October 7<sup>th</sup>—It being determined, after mature deliberation, that the countries ceded to Great Britain by the treaty of peace should be divided into four separate governments called QUEBEC, EAST FLORIDA, WEST FLORIDA, and GRENADA, a proclamation was issued, wherein their limits were ascertained, and encouragement was held out to settlers.

QUEBEC was bounded on the Labrador coast by the River St. John on the east, and by a line from the head of that river through Lake St. John to the south end of Lake Nipissim, whence by a line crossing the River St. Laurence, and then crossing Lake Champlain in the latitude of 45 degrees, and running along the high lands which divide the rivers running into the St. Laurence from those running into the ocean, and along the north coast of the Bay de Chaleurs to Cape Rosiers, whence across the Gulf of St. Laurence, by the west end of the island of Anticosti, to the aforesaid River St. John.

EAST FLORIDA was bounded on the west by Apalachicola river, on the north by a line from that part of the Apalachicola, where the rivers Chatahouchee and Flint meet, to the source of St. Mary's river, and by that river to the sea, which forms the other boundaries of the province, wherein are also comprehended all islands within six leagues of the coast.

WEST-FLORIDA was bounded on the south by the Gulf of Mexico, on the west by Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Maurepas, and the River Mississippi, as far north as the latitude of 31 degrees, which parallel of latitude forms its northern boundary, the eastern one being the River Apalachicola. All islands within six leagues of the coast were also annexed to this province.

The government of GRENADA comprehended that island with the Grenadines, the islands of Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago \*.

For the extension of an open and free fishery to all British subjects, the coast of Labrador, from the River St. John to Hudson's straits, together with Anticosti, Madelaine, and the other islands on that coast,

\* 'nourable English merchants,' with every privilege they could wish for.

The inland navigation, from Petersburg to the Caspian sea, was so much improved by the late empress in the year 1780, that the voyage is now performed in half the time it formerly required.

[Phillips's *Hist. of inland navigation*, p. 26, ed. 1795.]

\* Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago, since the conquest of them had been annexed to the government of Barbados.

were put under the care and inspection of the governor of Newfoundland.

The islands of St. John and Cape Breton, with their dependencies, were annexed to the government of Nova-Scotia.

And the tract of land between the rivers Alatamaha and St. Marys, was annexed to Georgia.

For the encouragement of settlers, the proclamation held out the assurance of security for their liberties and properties, of regular government, and of representative assemblies as soon as the provinces should be sufficiently populous to admit of elections. The lands should be granted on the most liberal terms; and for the particular encouragement of the army, the governors of the three new provinces on the continent, and the governors of all the other provinces in North America, should be instructed to grant, without fee or reward, and free of quit-rents for ten years, and of all obligations, except those of cultivation and improvement,

|                                      |   |                     |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| To every field officer               | - | 5000 acres of land, |
| To every captain                     | - | 3000,               |
| To every subaltern, or staff officer | - | 2000,               |
| To every noncommissioned officer     | - | 200,                |
| And to every private man             | - | 50 *.               |

And to such reduced officers of the navy, as served at the reduction of Louisbourg and Quebec, the like quantities of land, agreeable to their rank, were offered on the same terms.

The governors of the three new provinces on the continent, were restricted from making any grants of land, or permitting any settle-

\* For the encouragement of such soldiers and sailors as chose to settle at home, gratuitous, or advantageous, offers of lands were also made by public societies and public-spirited individuals.

The Dublin society offered premiums of five pounds each to the first hundred soldiers or sailors, who had served his Majesty out of Great Britain or Ireland, and were regularly discharged from the service, that should, in the year 1763, take leases for lives of not less than five, nor more than twenty, acres of land in the provinces of Leinster, Munster, and Connaught, on their producing, in September 1764, certificates from the clergyman of the parish, or two neighbouring justices, of their industry, and the apparent probability of their perseverance and continuance on their farms. And they also offered honorary gold medals to each of the first ten landlords in those three provinces, who should let at least five such farms to such tenants.

The trustees for the forfeited estates in Scotland promised the soldiers and sailors gratuitous land, and also materials for building and cultivation, fishing boats, tackle, and even money.

Sir Ludovick Grant, and Mr. Grant of Grant, offered to grant them farms of from five to fifteen acres in the shires of Inverness, Elgin, and Banff, free of rent for seven years; and for twelve years thereafter at one shilling the acre, and to allow them timber, stone, and lime, for building, and peats for fuel.

Several villages or hamlets were settled in consequence of these encouragements. But the vicissitudes of fatigue and indolence in the military life, are not very proper preparatives for the regular and persevering industry requisite for agricultural pursuits. I believe most of the settlements were soon abandoned.



ments to be made on the lands reserved for the occupation of the Indian aborigines. The trade with the Indians was declared to be entirely free and open to all British subjects, on complying with such regulations as already were, or afterwards should be, made for the direction of it; the traders being only obliged to take out licences from the governors, who were to give them without any fee or reward.

Agreeable to the arrangement fixed by this proclamation for the new provinces, the king had appointed General James Murray to be governor of Quebec, or Canada; General James Grant to be governor of East Florida; Commodore George Johnston to be governor of West Florida; and General Robert Melville to be governor-general of Grenada and the other ceded islands.

✓ In the year 1749 an agent, or superintendent, subordinate to the governor of Jamaica, had been appointed, with a suitable allowance, to direct the British settlements on the Musquito shore, and to cultivate the friendship of the Indians of those parts. In consequence of the article in the treaty of peace for demolishing the fortifications on the Bay of Honduras, it had become doubtful, whether the office of superintendent on the Musquito shore was also to cease; but by directions from home he was continued in office. Soon after Captain Otway, the superintendent, sent home the following account of the British settlements and trade on the tract of coast under his care.

At Black river, the principal settlement, there were 45 white families, and 21 families of mestees\*; and in ten other smaller settlements there were 22 families of whites, and 9 of mestees. The annual exports he calculates to be 650,000 feet of mahogany, 110,000 pounds of sarsaparilla, 8000 pounds of turtle shell, 150 mules, and cotton, indigo, and cacao, in small quantities†.

December 19<sup>th</sup>.—In the act of parliament for levying the land-tax for the year 1764, all personal estates, including debts, excepting desperate debts, stock on land, household goods, and loans to his Majesty, are taxed to pay four shillings in the pound of their yearly value, which is one per cent on the capital. The same tax is also extended to all employments and pensions, shares in the new river, fire offices, &c. excepting, however, offices in the army and navy.

In that part of the act, which regulates the taxation for Scotland, it

\* People of mixed breed, between whites and Indians, or between whites and negroes, or of all these breeds confounded. Mestee, however, in stricter acceptation, means the issue of a mulatto and a white, who is three quarters white and one quarter negro.

† The quantity of cotton increased considerably afterwards, and the quality of it was excellent, especially of that of the growth of St. Andreas, an island about 40 leagues from the shore.

appears, that there still remained in that country some obligations in force for debts bearing interest at six per cent; and the debtors, by § 132, were authorised to withhold payment of one sixth part (or one per cent) of the interest.

By § 137, a sum not exceeding two millions, bearing interest at four per cent, was directed to be borrowed on the credit of this tax. [4 *Geo. III, c. 2.*]

The marine society, that noble combination of charity and patriotism, was originally projected by the benevolent Jonas Hanway, for the purpose of feeding and clothing poor destitute boys, and fitting them out for the sea service; and it was supported by the liberal contributions of himself and other philanthropists, among whom Mr. Hickes, a merchant in Hamburg, who bequeathed to this most valuable charity his whole fortune, amounting to above £20,000, deserves to be eminently noticed. During the war, a very great number of boys had been rendered useful to themselves and to their country by this society. And they did not lose sight of their wards, when they were discharged from the navy on the return of peace, but invited all those, who were under sixteen years of age, to return to them. Some of these youths they placed with watermen, lightermen, fishermen, and commanders of merchant vessels; others they put under the care of officers of the navy, who engaged to keep them for three years; and about ninety were bound to manufactures and mechanic trades. By these means they put about three hundred of their boys a second time in a fair way of becoming useful members of society, instead of being a burthen and a nuisance to it, as many of them would probably have been, if they had remained in their original and undirected state of miserable dereliction.

The north part of Staffordshire, abounding with coal, and, its usual attendant, strong fire-clay, has certainly been the seat of manufactories of earthen ware for several centuries\*. When Dr. Plott wrote his Natural history of Staffordshire in the year 1686, the manufacture was confined to coarse butter pans, and such ware, the sale of which extended no farther than they could be carried on the backs of the workmen or hawkers.

About the beginning of the eighteenth century the discovery of a fine bed of red earth at Bradwell induced two brothers of the name of Elers to come from Holland and settle there: and they may be considered as the first improvers of the pottery. They made a fine kind of red porcelain in imitation of the oriental; and they introduced the

\* Some years ago the vestiges of an antient pottery were discovered at Chellerton, a village near Newcastle, the name of which proves its Ro-

man origin, whence it has been supposed that the Romans may have established a manufactory of earthen ware at that place.

art of glazing earthen ware by throwing common salt into the oven at the time of its highest ignition. But the clouds of smoke, raised by this operation, gave such offence to the neighbourhood, that they were obliged to leave the country ; and, it is believed, they removed to Ireland.

The clays of Stafford-shire are not fit for making white earthen ware : but the ingenuity of the manufacturers has discovered various improvements and combinations of the different substances, which have enabled them to produce from their own clays several species of earthen ware, still beyond the reach of foreign competition.

The pipe-clay of Devon-shire was also carried to Stafford-shire, and formed the basis of a white earthen ware, which was soon after much improved by the accidental discovery of the use of calcined flint. These improvements produced a stronger and more agreeable species of goods, known for many years by the name of *white stone ware*, which was glazed with salt in the manner introduced by the Elers, the neighbours no longer complaining of the nuisance of the smoke. This ware came into very general use all over the country ; and some of it was exported. But still great quantities of finer and more elegantly-formed earthen ware were imported from France and Holland for the tables of the wealthy.

Such was the state of the manufacture, when Mr. Josiah Wedgwood this year produced a new kind of cream-coloured earthen ware, superior in texture and durability to the French and Dutch, more capable of bearing the sudden changes of heat and cold, and covered with a brilliant and impenetrable glazing, which could be furnished at a moderate expense. The tide of public taste immediately turned ; foreign earthen wares were discarded ; English wares were used in every house in the kingdom, and began to be exported to the very countries from which earthen ware had hitherto been brought ; and the foreign manufactures, unable to stand the competition, declined, or were abandoned.

Mr. Wedgwood, who, with the diligence of the manufacturer, possessed the science and unwearied perseverance of the experimental philosopher, not satisfied with having added a most important article of universal use to the manufactures of the country, (for the quantity made before his improvement, compared with that made since, may be reckoned as nothing) introduced many new species of porcelain of various colours and sorts, of which are made an infinite variety of ornamental works, comprehending cameos, intaglios, bas-reliefs, medallions, tablets, small statues, busts, seals, &c. the matter of which is so hard, and so qualified to resist the action of fire and acids, that it promises to remain, after time shall have destroyed pictures, and even marbles and bronzes, an unperishing monument, to hand down to the latest posterity the immortal fame of the inventor, along with that of the characters represented on it. The fortunate circumstance of Sir William Hamilton bringing over from Italy his admired collection of antique vases also

opened a new field to his imitative powers; and he soon rendered their beautiful forms familiar in this country, instead of being confined to the knowledge of the few who could have access to see the originals. He, moreover, discovered the art of painting on vases, &c. without any gloss, in the manner of the ancient Etruscans, which, according to Mr. D'Hancarville, (in his Dissertation on Sir William Hamilton's museum) has been lost ever since the age of Pliny: and his productions in this class have even a superiority over the Etruscan vases, as they add to the beauty of design, the advantages of light and shade in all the variety of colours. His porcelain mortars, harder and more impenetrable than marble or metal, and his pyrometers for determining the degree of heat in very strong fires \*, deserve the gratitude of all who are interested in medicinal and chemical operations. Nor must his improved ink-pots, though trifling in point of price, be forgotten, as they are valuable to all who wish to preserve the points of their pens from being spoiled, and their fingers from being daubed with ink †.

For the sake of connection, I shall here give a brief account of the improved state of the earthen ware manufacture, chiefly extracted from Mr. Wedgwood's own evidence, given before the committee of the house of commons in May 1785.

From fifteen to twenty thousand persons are employed in the potteries: and much greater numbers are employed in digging coals for them, and in various distant parts of the kingdom, and even in Ireland, in raising and preparing the clay and flint, whereof fifty or sixty thousand tuns are annually conveyed to Staffordshire by coasting and inland navigation, which gives employment not only to coasting vessels and canal barges, but also to the vessels belonging to the Newfoundland fishery during the months that they used to be laid up idle. Vast numbers are also employed in carrying the goods, when manufactured, to every part of Great Britain for home consumption, and for exportation.

Though many of the states of Europe have prohibited the admission of British earthen ware, and others have loaded it with intolerable duties, yet five sixths of the quantity made are exported; and scarcely a vessel sails from any port of Great Britain without carrying less or more of this cheap and universally-useful article, the great bulk of which, in comparison with its price, renders it a most important object in respect to freightage, as every tun in weight of the raw material becomes three or four tuns in measurement, when shipped in its finished state. To this account of the great increase of the manufacture Mr.

\* The pyrometer has a distinguished place in all the laboratories of chemistry and experimental philosophy on the continent. [See *Travels in England and Scotland* by Mr. Faujas Saint-Fond, V. i, p. 96, *English translation*.]

† A fuller and better account of Mr. Wedgwood's inventions may be found in a catalogue which is delivered to the public at the warehouse.

Wedgwood added, that he conceived it to be still in its infancy, in comparison of what it may be, if it is not interrupted in its growth \*.

The manufacture has still continued to increase, and has spread over a district in the north part of Stafford-shire of about nine miles in extent, the whole of which is now so covered with manufactories and dwelling houses, that it has the appearance of one large scattering town, and is accordingly called in the neighbourhood by the name of the *Pottery*, though including several towns and villages. Earthen ware is also made in imitation of Mr. Wedgwood's manner in many other parts of Great Britain, and in Ireland, and also in several parts of the continent of Europe.

Thus are the meanest materials, the clay and the flint stones under our feet, converted into objects of the greatest utility and beauty, and become the means of giving employment to a prodigious number of people with the greatest possible national advantage (for the whole value of the earthen ware of every kind is the price of labour paid to our own people) and of opening a new and extensive field of commerce of the most beneficial kind to the kingdom. For all these blessings Great Britain is indebted to the genius, the elegant taste, the science, and the perseverance, of Mr. Wedgwood, whose memory ought to be held in honour by all concerned in the landed or commercial interests, or who wish well to the general prosperity, of Great Britain †.

The following sums were this year voted by the Irish parliament for promoting inland navigation and other commercial objects ‡.

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| For the great canal from Dublin to the Shannon,   | £6000  |
| For a canal to carry vessels of 100 tons from Newry to Loch Neagh, and thence to Drumglas colliery in the county of Tyrone,   | 4000   |
| A canal to connect Loch Swilly and Loch Foyle,  | 4000   |
| A canal, which, with the improvements on the River Lagan, completes the navigation between Loch Neagh and the sea at Belfast, | 2000   |
| Four other inland navigations by canals and improvement of the River Shannon, &c.   | 10,000 |

\* Let us also hear what a foreigner, a chemist, and mineralogist, and a lover of the arts, says of it.

‘ Its excellent workmanship, its solidity, the advantage which it possesses of sustaining the action of fire, its fine glaze impenetrable to acids, the beauty and convenience of its form, and the cheapness of its price, have given rise to a commerce so active, and so universal, that in travelling from Paris to Petersburg, from Amsterdam to the farthest part of Sweden, and from Dunkirk to the extremity of the south of France, one is served at every inn upon English ware.

Spain, Portugal, and Italy, are supplied with it, and vessels are loaded with it for the East-Indies, the West-Indies, and the continent of America.’ [Faujas Saint-Fond, V. i, p. 97.]

† Mr. Wedgwood died in January 1795, at Etruria, his seat in Stafford-shire, where he possessed a fine estate, an extensive set of works for his manufactory, and a village for the accommodation of his work people; all the fruits of his own honourable creative industry.

‡ See the grants of the year 1761 in p. 349.

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Improving harbours and building piers, quays, &c. at Dublin     |         |
| and seven other ports,  | £11,200 |
| To assist the expense of the dry dock at Dublin,                | 1000    |
| For carrying on the ballast-office wall,                        | 4000    |
| For carrying on a whale fishery on the north-west coast of Ire- |         |
| land,   | 1000    |
| To the Dublin society for the encouragement of arts, trades,    |         |
| and manufactures,   | 10,000  |

And considerable sums were at the same time allotted for churches, hospitals, bridges, and other useful works.

The herrings, after having for fifty years deserted the coast of Sweden, had some years ago returned to it in such abundance, that 42,012 tuns of those fish were sent from the coast into the interior parts of the country; and there were exported from Gottenburg 101,143 tuns of salted herrings, 48 of smoked, and 322 of fresh; as also 63,016 cannes of oil made from the herrings. The Swedish government wisely encouraged this very profitable fishery for some time after the revival of it. But by the very superior advantage of taking the herrings in prodigious numbers at almost no expense by seine nets close upon the shore, the low price of labour and of casks, it was soon capable of supporting itself without any public assistance; and the Swedes were enabled to undersell every other nation engaged in the herring fishery.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Christmas 1762 to Christmas 1763 was as follows.

| Countries, &c.     | Imported into  |              | Exported from  |              |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
|                    | ENGLAND.       | SCOTLAND.    | ENGLAND.       | SCOTLAND.    |
| Africa - -         | £18,128 2 8    |              | £463,818 9 4   | £131 5 0     |
| Canaries - -       | 2,739 13 1     |              | 21,032 16 9    |              |
| Denmark and Norway | 89,179 11 2    | £36,216 7 1  | 140,610 10 7   | 26,940 17 8  |
| East Country - -   | 247,066 1 6    |              | 299,857 7 7    |              |
| East-India - -     | 1,059,335 18 7 |              | 887,083 7 0    |              |
| Flanders - -       | 83,320 3 10    |              | 384,177 12 8   | 27,697 14 2  |
| France - -         | 43,158 5 5     |              | 197,100 11 3   | 187,365 11 3 |
| Germany - -        | 1,085,107 0 9  | 4,842 8 0    | 2,272,272 16 8 | 20,649 13 9  |
| Greenland - -      | 8,117 15 2     | 2,491 7 10   | 22 15 3        |              |
| Holland - -        | 476,383 10 3   | 84,419 15 5  | 1,910,240 19 5 | 291,599 8 0  |
| Ireland - -        | 769,379 11 8   | 130,604 15 1 | 1,640,713 3 3  | 165,654 18 6 |
| Mann - -           |                | 3 15 0       |                | 1,433 14 10  |
| Italy - -          | 948,140 8 0    | 1,237 3 1    | 468,779 18 4   | 1,145 14 6   |
| Madeira - -        | 1,119 3 9      |              | 37,278 13 3    | 239 6 2      |
| Poland - -         |                | 10,536 2 7   |                | 15,300 16 10 |
| Prussia - -        |                | 8,740 8 7    |                | 6,904 17 5   |
| Portugal - -       | 304,056 0 10   | 11,081 8 5   | 727,623 12 9   | 11,706 8 6   |
| Russia - -         | 801,279 0 7    | 110,720 5 8  | 78,901 1 11    | 92,339 9 1   |
| Spain - -          | 590,506 5 11   | 6,250 11 6   | 1,168,072 1 3  | 11,973 0 7   |
| Straits - -        | 20,276 11 4    |              | 325,622 18 6   |              |
| Sweden - -         | 249,540 15 0   | 24,275 6 0   | 20,494 1 7     | 1,544 15 6   |
| Turkey - -         | 76,004 9 2     |              | 93,646 13 11   |              |



| Countries, &c.   | Imported into   |             | Exported from  |                |
|--|-----------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
|  | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.   | ENGLAND.       | SCOTLAND.      |
| Venice - - -   | £31,841 18 4    |             | 20,259 14 0    |                |
| Guernsey, &c. - -  | 144,895 7 9     | 10,350 3 11 | 43,746 12 9    | 3,690 8 0      |
| Belle-isle - - -   | 17 13 7         |             | 929 9 6        |                |
| America in general - -   | 353,984 11 5    |             |                | 270,548 16 9   |
| Hudson's bay - - -   | 8,567 10 1      |             | 4,393 2 7      |                |
| Newfoundland - - -   | 34,102 18 8     |             | 55,102 8 7     |                |
| Quebec - - -   | 26,856 13 5     |             | 149,539 16 4   |                |
| Nova-Scotia - - -  | 4,312 9 10      |             | 16,303 3 4     |                |
| New-England - - -  | 74,813 1 1      |             | 258,854 19 6   |                |
| New-York - - -   | 53,988 14 4     |             | 238,560 2 1    |                |
| Pennsylvania - - -   | 38,228 10 2     |             | 284,152 16 0   |                |
| Virginia and Maryland - -  | 642,294 2 9     |             | 555,391 12 10  |                |
| Carolina - - -   | 282,366 3 6     |             | 250,132 2 0    |                |
| Georgia - - -  | 14,469 18 4     |             | 44,908 19 9    |                |
| Florida - - -  |                 |             | 9,946 3 2      |                |
| West-Indies in general   |                 | 88,331 12 3 | 39,578 10 10   | 75,672 18 3    |
| Anguilla - - -   | 2,369 18 9      |             |                |                |
| Antigua - - -  | 180,347 3 1     |             | 101,574 8 2    |                |
| Barbados - - -   | 252,537 10 0    |             | 213,909 4 9    |                |
| Bermuda - - -  |                 |             | 8,023 15 11    |                |
| Dominica - - -   |                 |             | 1,264 5 6      |                |
| Grenada - - -  | 261,532 3 0     |             | 53,118 5 6     |                |
| Guadaloupe - - -   | 412,303 18 7    |             | 11,159 1 4     |                |
| Havanna - - -  | 249,387 4 8     |             | 6,643 11 6     |                |
| Jamaica - - -  | 1,159,023 15 11 |             | 584,978 2 5    |                |
| Martinique - - -   | 344,162 7 1     |             | 12,455 14 2    |                |
| Montserrat - - -   | 59,571 15 11    |             | 15,505 18 1    |                |
| Nevis - - -  | 45,280 9 10     |             | 29,557 9 8     |                |
| New-Providence - - -   | 6,438 2 11      |             |                |                |
| St. Croix - - -  | 8,396 5 9       |             | 1,144 0 0      |                |
| St. Christophers - -   | 234,981 17 9    |             | 104,724 7 10   |                |
| Tortola - - -  | 58,571 4 2      |             | 1,901 1 4      |                |
| Foreign West-Indies -  |                 | 19,137 0 11 |                | 3,190 14 6     |
| British and Irish linens<br>exported on bounty to<br>various countries - |                 |             | 30,604 6 6     |                |
| Prize goods - - -  | 160,516 12 10   |             | 201,194 6 7    |                |
| Imp. and exp. of England   | 11,665,036 0 9  |             | 14,487,507 3 9 |                |
| Imp. and exp. of Scotland  | 903,891 2 8     | 903,891 2 8 | 1,091,435 19 9 | 1,091,435 19 9 |
| Total, Great Britain -   | 12,568,927 3 5  |             | 15,578,943 3 6 |                |

There belonged this year to all the ports  
of England - - 6,571 vessels, of the reputed burthen of 496,093 tons,  
and of Scotland 1,062 59,862

Total - 7,633

555,955

The net amount of the customs, including the West-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the course of this year, was, from the custom-house in London, £2,247,103 18 9  
and from the custom-house in Edinburgh, - 2,500 0 0

Total net revenue of the customs of Great Britain, £2,249,603 18 9

|   |   |   |               |
|---|---|---|---------------|
| There were coined at the mint in the course of the year |   |   |               |
| 10,980 pounds of gold, value                            | - | - | £513,040 10 0 |
| and 848 pounds of silver,                               | - | - | 2,628 16 0    |
|   |   |   | <hr/>         |
|   |   |   | £515,669 6 0  |

1764 January—As the charter of the bank of England was nearly expired, an agreement was entered into between the government and the bank, whereby the latter agreed to pay cash for exchequer bills to the amount of a million, for which they were to receive interest at the rate of three per cent till the year 1766, when the bills were to be paid off; and also to pay £110,000, for which they were to receive neither interest nor repayment: but in consideration thereof they were to be continued a body corporate with all their advantages as before, and to the exclusion of every other body politic, and partnership exceeding six persons, from carrying on the business of banking in England till the redemption of the debt due to them by government, and one year's notice after the first day of August 1786.

The agreement was soon after confirmed by an act of parliament, wherein it was made felony without benefit of clergy to forge powers of attorney or other authorities for receiving dividends, transferring or selling stock, or to personate the proprietor of any stock in order to receive his dividend or transfer his stock (April 18th). [4 *Geo. III*, c. 25.]

In the ensuing October the dividends on bank stock were raised from *four and a half* to *five* per cent.

The scheme of supplying the metropolis with fresh fish at moderate prices under the patronage of the society for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce, and the management of Captain Blake, in the year 1761, had been strongly opposed, and in a great measure defeated by the arts of those, who were interested in keeping up the price of fish. The society, who had advanced £2000 as the foundation of the business, and £1500 further as a loan to Captain Blake to assist in carrying it on, being fully satisfied of the propriety and integrity of his conduct, entirely released him from the obligation of the debt contracted in his zeal for the service of the public. As it was evident, that this undertaking, though attended with loss to the patriotic society and the manager, had been very advantageous to the public in greatly reducing the price of fish, parliament soon after allowed Captain Blake £2500 to enable him to persevere in his laudable attempt.

The society of arts, still desirous of exerting themselves for procuring a plentiful supply of fish, and encouraging native fishermen, soon after offered a premium of £5 for every hundred of turbot measuring 16 inches from the eye to the fork of the tail, and £2 : 10 for every hundred not under 10 inches \*, caught by British subjects, and offered

\* Pope, in his *Satires*, informs us, that it was the *fashion* to prefer small turbot in his time.

for sale in London or Westminster between the 1st of May and 31st of August 1764.

Since the establishment of this truly benevolent and generous society in the year 1755, they had expended almost £20,000 in public-spirited measures for promoting the improvement and the happiness of the country.

The English East-India company, though originally merely a society of merchants, by being obliged to maintain a body of troops for the protection of their settlements, and by their frequent contests and alliances with the princes of Hindoostan, had gradually become a war-like, as well as a commercial, commonwealth. Even at this time they had gained such an ascendant in the affairs of India, that the court of directors in Leadenhall street might with great propriety be compared to the senators of antient Rome sitting in judgment on, and determining the fate of, suppliant princes: for the sovereigns of India, whose protection the company used formerly to court, were now, by some of those strange revolutions, which have in all ages decided the fate of that country, sunk into the situation of dependents upon the company, (or, perhaps, to speak more correctly, of their servants in India) at whose pleasure they possessed their precarious dignities. In order to give the reader some idea of the events, that in the course of a few years placed the company, as territorial sovereigns, at least on a level in respect to power and revenue with the greatest of the Oriental princes, the emperor of China only excepted, it will be necessary to give a glance to the affairs of India for a few years back.

The English governor and council of Calcutta, provoked by the capture of their town by Surajah Dowlah nabob of Bengal, and sensible that, since they were now at variance with that prince, their safety could only consist in a superiority of power, entered into a negotiation with Mir Jaffier Aly Cawn, one of his favourite chiefs, to whom they offered their assistance to establish him on the throne of his sovereign. In consequence of their previous agreement Jaffier stood neuter at the battle of Plassey, fought in June 1757, and Surajah was completely routed by Colonel (afterwards Lord) Clive: and that battle may be said to have made the English East-India company the arbiters of the destiny of the sovereigns of Bengal, besides giving them a preponderating influence throughout all the states of Hindoostan\*. Jaffier was accordingly made nabob: and in consideration of the assistance given him by the English company he paid them a great sum in ready money, and resigned to them a territory yielding a revenue of £600,000 a-year, reserving to himself only the quit-rents amounting to £30,000 a-year;

\* The proper name, in the Persian language, of the country usually called India on this side of the Ganges, though that river is by no means the boundary of it. The indigenous name is Bharata. [See *Rennel's Memoirs of a map of Hindoostan*, p. xx.]

and even these he soon after divested himself of in favour of Colonel Clive, which donation became the subject of much public discussion under the name of Clive's jagheer. He was moreover obliged to grant them privileges in trade, so excessively great, and so prejudicial to his customs, that upon the whole his exaltation to sovereign power might justly be said to have ruined him. He was reduced to such necessitous circumstances, that he was driven to the desperate resource of oppressing his subjects beyond their abilities; and yet he fell greatly in arrears to his army, whose good will was essentially necessary to support him against the discontents of his subjects, and to levy the taxes he laid upon them, and also to enable him to encroach upon those privileges he had so profusely granted to the English. In this distressful situation he was attacked by several of the neighbouring powers; and the government of Calcutta, no longer inclined to favour or assist him, resolved to depose him, and set up his son-in-law Mir Cossim Aly Cawn in his place.

The proposed revolution was soon effected by Governor Vansittart and Colonel Caillaud; and, as the price of his elevation, additional payments and privileges were obtained from the new nabob.

Cossim was a man of much greater abilities than his predecessor. He felt the misery and ignominy of his situation: but he resolved to bear it in silence, till he should be enabled to bring about a proper opportunity of asserting the independence of the sovereignty, with which he was invested: and that purpose he kept constantly in view, as the capital object of all his politics. By assiduously cultivating the friendship of the English he was enabled to defeat a son of the great Mogul, who had attacked him, and with whom he soon after entered into an alliance. He also suppressed the Indian rajahs, who had taken the advantage of his predecessor's embarrassments to throw off the yoke, and compelled them to pay the antient tribute. His revenue being thereby somewhat improved, he was enabled to pay his army more regularly, and to establish quiet and good order in his dominions. And now he thought himself in a condition to throw off his disguise, and to become his own master. His first step was to remove his residence from Moorshedabad to Mongheer, two hundred miles higher up the Ganges, that his actions might no longer be exposed to the observations of the English at Calcutta. He lost no time in fortifying his new capital, and in forming an army, which, by the accession of military adventurers from various nations of Europe and Asia, he was enabled to arm, discipline, and furnish with artillery, altogether in a style much superior to what had ever before been seen in India.

The free trade, which his predecessor and he had been obliged to grant to the English, was not only ruinous to his revenue, but also to the trade of his subjects, all the commerce of the country being there-

by forced out of its antient and natural course into those new and more favoured channels. He therefor began his operations by ordering that the English *private* traders should pay the usual duties throughout his dominions, and that all disputes, originating beyond the English limits, should be decided by his magistrates.

Such orders were most alarming to the factory at Calcutta. Mr. Vansittart the governor thought his own presence necessary to try to bring things back to their former channel, and undertook a journey to Mongheer for that purpose. But the nabob had hitherto conducted his plans too well to be induced by any force of argument to depart from them; and he thus answered the governor's remonstrances:

' If the servants of the English company were permitted to trade in all parts and in all commodities custom-free, as many of them now pretend, they must of course draw all the trade into their own hands; and my customs would be of so little value, that it would be much more for my interest to lay the trade entirely open, and collect no customs from any person whatsoever upon any kind of merchandize. This would draw a number of merchants into the country, and increase my revenues by encouraging the cultivation and manufacture of a large quantity of goods for sale, at the same time that it would effectually cut off the principal subject of dispute, which had disturbed the good understanding between us, an object I have more than any other at heart.'

There was no answering a speech so forcible in point of argument, and so well supported by the power of the speaker. The governor, though accustomed to dictate to Indian princes, was obliged to submit to the regulations prescribed by the nabob, which, whether reasonable or not, were far from being agreeable to the gentlemen of the factory, who, in virtue of the former indulgences, were making great fortunes at the expense of the nabob and people of Bengal.

In their astonishment and indignation at seeing the creature of their own hands raise his head against them, they disowned the agreement made by their governor, and sent orders to all the subordinate factories to pay no attention to it. Every thing was now thrown into confusion, and the whole commerce of the country was at a stand. They then made another application to Cossim to repeal the obnoxious regulations; but he, confident of his power, haughtily refused to enter into any negotiation with them.

The factory, stung with resentment and disappointment, and presuming upon the ease wherewith they had lately made and unmade princes, immediately proclaimed Mir Jaffier again nabob of Bengal; and the decision of the contest was referred to the sword.

The English garrison of a fortified factory at Patna, a city on the Ganges, 400 miles above Calcutta and about 100 above Mongheer,

struck the first blow in this war by an attack upon the town of Patna, which they almost instantly made themselves masters of, and abandoning themselves to the licentiousness and disorders of pillage, they were as suddenly driven out of it in four hours thereafter, and obliged to take shelter in their fort, which they as speedily abandoned, fled across the Ganges, and three days after were completely routed by the Indian forces (25th June—1st July 1763).

Major Adams immediately marched into the nabob's territories; and, though Coffin conducted his operations with a degree of prudence and military knowledge never before attained by any of the Indian princes, and his troops were also better armed, clothed, and disciplined, and displayed more courage and firmness than is usual with Indian armies, the superior military knowledge and discipline of the English in a few months (July—October 1763) drove him from post to post, and at last entirely out of his dominions to take shelter with Sujah Dowlah, the nabob of the neighbouring province of Oude, who, fearful of drawing on himself the resentment of the English, refused to admit any of his troops, though he willingly afforded an asylum to himself.

Such was the situation of affairs in India, when the dispatches were sent home: and, though the event might be considered as rather favourable to the company, yet, when they received the unwelcome news of a war, the progress and consequences of which might be so destructive to their revenue, which from territorial and commercial funds now amounted to between six and seven hundred thousand pounds a-year, it struck them with so great a consternation, that India stock immediately fell 14 per cent (February 6th), and great debates ensued on the measures proper to be pursued in India.

Lord Clive was generally considered by the proprietors of India stock as the person best qualified for the military command in such critical circumstances. But there were some disputes on the subject of his jagheer, which the company, through whose hands only he could receive it, had withheld from him, as being answerable for it to the Mogul, if he should ever be in a capacity to demand it of them. There was also another difficulty. While they wished Lord Clive to be at the head of their army abroad, they desired that Mr. Sullivan should preside as chairman in the direction at home. But Lord Clive positively refused to take any concern in the company's affairs, if that gentleman were to be at the head of the direction. And so high were their hopes and their confidence in Lord Clive's military talents, that all difficulties were smoothed, the affair of the jagheer was accommodated to his satisfaction, and Mr. Sullivan was obliged to content himself with being merely one of the directors. Lord Clive, having thus got all matters in dispute settled almost on his own terms, embarked for India about the end of May.



The India company, in order to avoid similar disputes in future, made a law, that henceforth none of their servants should ever accept any gratuity from any prince or governor in India.

Some stones found in the Highlands of Scotland \*, and judged to be equal in beauty, and all the other characteristics, to the oriental rubies, were presented to the royal society and the society for the encouragement of arts, commerce, and manufactures. If a brilliant stone is really a desirable thing, and worthy of being purchased at the price of a good estate, whether is it better to procure them from the poorest provinces of our own island, or from the most opulent regions of the globe?

Siberia, a country hitherto little known, appears to be rich in mines of the precious metals. 13,200 pounds weight of silver, and 990 pounds of gold, the produce of the labour of the miners in the year 1763, were conveyed to Petersburg in the beginning of this year. The quantity was expected to be greater in the ensuing year, as that of 1763 had exceeded what had been got in 1762. A mine of quicksilver was also discovered in the same country.

March 20th—A new harbour was completed by Sir John Hufsey Delaval at Hartley near Newcastle, the entrance of which was cut out of the solid rock 19 feet deep and about 900 feet in length.

There being a general complaint of the high prices of provisions, parliament instituted an inquiry, whereby it appeared, that the price of the best beef to the venders was 3*d* a pound, and to the consumers 4*d* and 4½*d* for choise pieces, 3*d* and 3¼*d* for middling, and from 1¼*d* to 2¼*d* for coarse pieces, being about a halfpenny dearer than the prices in the same month (March) in the preceding years, when we were engaged in an extensive war. On examining the people concerned in conveying the meat from the farmer to the consumer, it appeared that there was no scarcity of cattle, that meat was sold much cheaper within thirty miles of London, and, notwithstanding several specious pretences, that the high price in London was in reality owing to the arts of engrossers and forestallers. But though the cause of so great an evil was discovered, we do not find that any effectual remedy has ever been applied †.

\* Among the precious stones found in the Highlands may be reckoned sapphires, equal to the oriental; hexagonal topazes, commonly called, from the mountain on which they are chiefly found, Carn-gorm stones, one of which, in the possession of Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld, is as large as the body of a child of two years old; the emerald; the amethyst; the garnet or ruby. The Ely ruby found in the sands at Ely in Fife.

The pearls of Scotland were famous in former times, and the collection of them belonging to King

Alexander I was celebrated and coveted in foreign kingdoms. See an account of the Scottish precious stones in the *Bee*, 1793, a periodical work published at Edinburgh.

† Some hold it as a maxim, that the high price of provisions is a proof of flourishing commerce and national prosperity. But this, like all other general rules, must be received with allowances and exceptions. The trade of the cattle-jobber and carcase-butcher may prosper while the price of meat is very high; but commerce is hurt by it in

Upon a consideration of the state of the islands ceded to us in the West-Indies by the treaty of peace, in order to concert a plan for the immediate and effectual improvement of them, the following account of them was drawn up.

TOBAGO, supposed to contain above 100,000 acres of land, is one of the most valuable of the Caribbee islands, being, though little encumbered with mountains, well refreshed by rivulets, and stored with useful timber. Though it was formerly in some degree settled\*, it was now abandoned, the only habitations on it being a few huts for the shelter of the French turtlers, when they resorted to it. For the most advantageous settlement of this island, it was recommended, that it should be divided into convenient districts or parishes of from six to ten thousand acres each, limited as natural boundaries might direct, and extending from the shore into the heart of the island; that situations proper for fortifications or yards for the navy should first be marked out; that a place in each division most convenient for trade, and containing from 500 to 1000 acres, should be allotted for a town, with suitable allowances of glebe for a minister and schoolmaster; that in the hilly parts of each parish a proper reservation should be made of the natural wood, for the sake of attracting the clouds, and thereby producing the seasonable rains so necessary in a warm climate, and for want of which some islands, where the woods have been totally extirpated, have greatly suffered in their crops†. After all these reservations, it was proposed, that the remaining lands should be assorted into lots, mostly from 100 to 300 acres, and a few as large as 400 or 500 acres, allowing, as far as the ground would admit, an equal proportion of the natural conveniencies to every lot, and extending them length-ways from the shore or river into the interior country; and also that such parts of each parish as were unfit for sugar plantations, should be distributed into small lots of from ten to thirty acres for the encouragement of poor settlers, and for promoting the speedy population of the island.

all its branches, from the manufacturer to the exporter, who feels it severely in victualling his ships, as several merchants declared in the course of this same inquiry. But if we were prosperous in March 1764, by this standard we must have been more than doubly prosperous in March 1799, the price of meat being more than double of what was complained of in 1764 as enormous.

No one can rejoice more than myself at the prosperity of my country; yet I cannot help feeling for the situation of all those who cannot increase their income to keep pace with the prosperity of the dealers in provisions, and are consequently not quite half so rich now with an income of the same number of pounds, as they were so lately as the year 1763. Dean Swift, in his *Maxims controlled in Ireland*, has made it appear, that the price of

lands, which is in reality the price of provisions, may rise, when a country is far from being in a flourishing condition.

\* Repeated attempts were made by the English and by the Dutch to settle Tobago; and a duke of Courland also made an effort here to come in for a share of the West-Indian islands with the greater sovereigns of Europe. [*Raynal Hist. phil. et polit. V. vii, p. 302, ed. 1782.*—*Campbell's political survey, V. ii, p. 690.*]

† Raynal thinks the preservation of the woods also necessary to health, and he ascribes the great mortality of the Europeans on the first settlement of the islands to the injudicious practice of cutting down all the trees, and clearing the ground faster than they could cultivate it. [*Hist. V. vii, p. 305.*]

GRENADA contains, by estimation, 67,425 acres, of which above one half was now actually in cultivation, the produce of the year 1762, in sugar esteemed of the best quality, rum, coffee, cacao, and melasses, having amounted to £200,000\*. The interior part is mountainous, and covered with useful wood. The island contains six parishes, in each of which there is a town, about 3500 white inhabitants, and about 10,000 negro slaves.

The Grenadillas, or Grenadines, are a chain of small islands extending between Grenada and St. Vincent, the chief of which, Cariacou and Bequia, produced cotton and cacao.

ST. VINCENT is mountainous with a mixture of large tracts of good land, especially near the sea and on the gentle slopes of the hills. It was partly occupied by the aboriginal Caribs with a mixture of Negroes, supposed to be from four to five thousand in number, who were quite independent, and very jealous of any European settlement upon their island. There were, however, a good many settlements made by the French, who were computed to be about 1300 white people, and 3400 blacks. They had a considerable stock of sheep, horned cattle, and working beasts; and their principal articles of produce were cacao, coffee, and tobacco. The same mode of settlement, proposed for Tobago, is recommended for this island; only that the good will of the independent Caribs and Negroes must be sedulously cultivated, and unjust encroachments upon them most carefully avoided.

DOMINICA contains about 300,000 acres of good and fertile land, well watered with 83 rivers or rivulets, sufficient for driving sugar mills; but it is not so well adapted for sugar, on account of the mountains which almost entirely cover it. The land already cleared on the coast was reckoned about six thousand acres, producing annually about 1,690,000 pounds of coffee, 270,000 pounds of cacao, and 17,000 pounds of cotton, the value of which was above £70,000. The number of inhabitants was 1718 whites, 5872 blacks†, and about 60 families of free Caribs. The island was already divided by the French into ten districts or parishes: and the plan proposed for its settlement was nearly the same with that for Tobago; only that, as it seemed not equally well adapted for sugar plantations‡, and because it lies between the French islands of Martinique and Guadaloupe, a strong population

\* The importance of Grenada, even before the institution of regular government in it, may be seen from the account of its exports from 20th January 1763 till 20th January 1764, which were 66,579 cwt. of sugar, 206 hogheads of rum, 1,707,305 pounds of coffee, 278,749 pounds of cacao, 166,686 pounds of cotton, and 2640 hogheads of melasses.

† Raynal reckons only 600 whites and 2000

blacks in Dominica in the year 1763. If both accounts are correct, the difference may be supposed to proceed from the accession of British settlers after the conquest. But he reckons only 1574 whites of all ages on the 1st of January 1778, with 574 free mulattoes and blacks, and 14,308 slaves. [*Hist. V. vii, p. 317.*]

‡ For many years bypast Dominica has produced very good sugar and rum.

of white people ought by all means to be encouraged ; and therefor, after the public lands were reserved, it was proposed to make a distribution into lots generally not exceeding 100 acres, allowing; however, a few more extensive lots in some places fit for sugar.

In order to prevent a monopoly of lands by jobbing purchasers, it was proposed, that no person should be allowed to hold above 500 acres ; and at the same time; to remove every possibility of partiality in giving gratuitous grants, that the cleared lands, occupied by the French planters, should be leased to them in quantities not exceeding 500 acres on moderate quit-rents, on their taking the necessary oaths to qualify them as British subjects ; that the uncultivated lands, and also the cultivated lands vested in the crown, should be sold by auction, the former being put up at so low a price as to be almost equal to a gratuitous grant, while at the same time the nature of the sale would permit every one to be an offerer \*, and as far as possible prevent undue influence and favour, the purchasers being bound to certain conditions of cultivation, and to the payment of an annual quit-rent of 6*d* for every acre of cleared land, from which settlers of lots of 30 acres or under should be excused for four years.

The town lots, not already cleared, were to be given gratis, on condition of clearing and building, and paying one penny annually for every foot in front, and 6*d* for every acre of the pasture lots annexed to each town lot. The town lots, already cleared, were to be sold by auction, subject to ground-rents and quit-rents, as the others.

Such were the report of the lords of trade and plantations upon the state of the ceded islands, and their proposals for the settlement of them ; agreeable to which a proclamation was issued (March 26th), setting forth the terms of purchase and payment, viz. 20 per cent to be paid immediately, whereupon a bill of sale was to be given, and the remainder to be paid by installments of 10 per cent the first year, 10 per cent the second year, and 20 per cent each year after, till the whole should be paid up. The purchasers of cleared grounds to have one white man, or two white women, on every hundred acres, on penalty of £40 for every man, or £20 for every woman, deficient. The purchasers of uncleared land to clear every year at least one twentieth part of their lots, till a half of the whole were cleared, on penalty of £5 for every acre neglected to be so cleared ; and, as fast as the ground was cleared, to have the same proportion of white men or women settled on their lands. The lots reserved for poor settlers, after four years to be subject to a quit-rent of 6*d* for every acre cleared, and 2*s* for every acre uncleared, and not to be alienated for seven years, except to the children of the grantees.

\* The nature of a sale by auction also tempts every bidder, in case of a keen competition, to offer more than the value : and it is the opinion of many, that that was actually the case at these sales.

Disputes having arisen between the English and French fishermen at Newfoundland, and both governments being desirous to avoid a national quarrel, the French ambassador presented to the British government some propositions relating to the concurrent fishery on a part of the coast of Newfoundland, stipulated by the treaty of peace. The king thereupon sent additional instructions to Commodore Palliser, the governor of that island, directing him to observe the strictest impartiality between the subjects of the two nations with respect to their shares of the grounds for drying their fish, and to prevent any injury to the persons or properties of the French fishermen (March 30th).

April 5th—For the encouragement of the manufacture of hats, the law, allowing beaver to draw back the duty when exported, was repealed; and moreover, a duty of 7*d* was laid on every beaver skin or piece of beaver skin, and of 1/6 on every pound of beaver wool exported, the beaver skins paying when imported, a duty of only one penny each. [4 *Geo. III*, c. 9.]

The laws for encouraging the manufacture of British sail-cloth and gun-powder, and for encouraging the importation of timber, and the articles of wood commonly called lumber, being nearly expired, were all continued in force till the end of the first session of parliament after 29th September 1771. [4 *Geo. III*, c. 11.]

The laws for regulating pilots for the River Thames—for allowing rum or spirits, the produce of the British plantations, to be landed and warehoused before the excise duties are paid—that against forcibly resisting the revenue officers—and that allowing sugars of the British colonies to be carried directly to foreign parts in ships built in Great Britain, and navigated according to law, were all prolonged; that for the pilots to the end of the next session after 25th March 1778, and the others to the same term with those in the preceding act. By the same act of parliament those found guilty of damaging banks, flood-gates, or other works belonging to rivers and streams made navigable, were ordered to be transported for seven years. [4 *Geo. III*, c. 12.]

In an act for taking two millions out of the sinking fund, the allowance of twelve per cent for leakage of wines was rescinded from all wines imported from any other place than that of their growth, the merchants of Jersey and Guernsey having made a practice of filling up their wines in those islands, and then receiving the allowance for leakage as well as others. [4 *Geo. III*, c. 13.]

The following is the preamble of an act for granting duties in the colonies.

‘Whereas it is expedient, that new duties and regulations should be established for improving the revenue of this kingdom, and for extending and securing the navigation and commerce between Great Britain and your Majesty’s dominions in America, which by the peace



‘ have been so happily enlarged: and whereas it is just and necessary, that a revenue be raised in your Majesty’s said dominions in America for defraying the expences of defending, protecting, and securing the same, We, your Majesty’s most dutiful and loyal subjects, the commons of Great Britain in parliament assembled, being desirous of making some provision in this present session of parliament towards raising the said revenue in America, have resolved to give and grant unto your Majesty the several rates and duties herein after mentioned,’ viz. after 29th September 1764, on the following goods landed in America.

|   |    |    |    |
|---|----|----|----|
| White or clayed sugar, the produce of foreign colonies to pay over and above all former duties, per cwt.    | £1 | 2  | 0  |
| Indigo of foreign growth, per lb.   | -  | 0  | 6  |
| Coffee, from any place except Great Britain, per cwt.   | 2  | 19 | 9  |
| Wine from Maderia, or any other <i>island</i> , whence wine may lawfully be imported, per tun               | -  | 7  | 0  |
| Wine of Portugal or Spain, or any other wine except French  |    |    |    |
| French, imported from Great Britain, per tun  | -  | 0  | 10 |
| Silk, or stuff mixed with silk, made in Persia, China, India, imported from Great Britain, per pound weight | -  | 0  | 2  |
| Calico made in Persia, &c. imported from Britain, per piece   | 0  | 2  | 6  |
| Cambric, foreign made, imported from Britain, per piece   | -  | 0  | 3  |
| French lawn imported from Britain, per piece  | -  | 0  | 3  |

Such were the duties enacted to be paid on the importation into the colonies. The following were to be levied on the produce of the British colonies, when shipped for any place whatever, except Great Britain.

|   |    |   |   |
|---|----|---|---|
| Coffee of the British islands, per cwt. | £0 | 7 | 0 |
| Pimento of the British islands, per lb. | -  | 0 | 0 |

At the same time the act, [6 *Geo. II, c. 13*] for better securing and encouraging the trade of his Majesty’s sugar colonies in America, was made perpetual, with the following alterations.

Melasses and syrups, the produce of foreign colonies, if carried to his Majesty’s colonies in America, to pay threepence per gallon, instead of the former duty of sixpence, which was generally eluded.

All these duties payable in America to be paid into his Majesty’s exchequer in bullion, and to be kept apart and appropriated for the defence of the colonies.

No sugars were allowed to be imported into Ireland, but directly from Great Britain.

The remainder of this act most strictly guards the trade of the American colonies, and condemns to forfeiture all vessels found hovering on the coast of America (except French vessels near the tolerated part of Newfoundland) and all British vessels found standing into, or coming



out of the French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon in the Gulf of St. Laurence. [4 *Geo. III*, c. 15.]

Agreeable to the spirit of this law, all the officers of the ships of war, stationed on the coasts of America and the West-Indies were made to take the custom-house oaths, and act as revenue officers for the prevention of smuggling. But the alertness and activity, which those gentlemen had lately exerted with so much advantage and honour to themselves and their country in taking prizes from the enemy, were more prejudicial than serviceable to the general interests of commerce in their new employment. Little acquainted, as may be supposed, with rules, which require long study and practice to understand them, and still less with the prudential reasons, which had hitherto induced a relaxation of the rigour of the law in cases, where a judicious overlooking was for the national advantage, they eagerly and indiscriminately seized every vessel they found in the smallest degree transgressing the strict letter of the law, the interpretation of which was in \* a great measure in their own hands.

The old northern colonies in America, it is well known, have very few articles fit for the British market; and yet they every year took off large quantities of merchandize from Great Britain, for which they made payments with tolerable regularity †. Though they could not, like the Spanish colonists, dig the money out of their own soil, they found means to make a great part of their remittances in gold and silver dug out of the Spanish mines. This they effected by being general carriers, and by a circuitous commerce, carried on in small vessels, chiefly with the foreign West-India settlements, to which they carried lumber of all sorts, fish of an inferior quality, beef, pork, butter, horses, poultry and other live stock, an inferior kind of tobacco, corn, flour, bread, cyder, and even apples, cabbages, onions, &c. and also vessels built at a small expense, the materials being almost all within themselves; for which they received in return mostly silver and gold, some of which remained as current coin among themselves; but the greatest part was remitted home to Britain, and, together with bills of exchange generally remitted to London for the proceeds of their best fish, sold in the Roman-catholic countries of Europe, served to pay for the goods they received from the mother country. This trade united all the advantages, which the wisest and most philanthropic philosopher, or the

\* In cases of improper seizure redress might be sought by appeal to the boards of admiralty or treasury at home; which, considering the delay and distance, and the circumstances of the plaintiffs and the defendants, could very seldom be productive of any redress. There was, however, at least one instance of a cause being tried before the superior court at New-York in the year 1766 for the

value of a ship and cargo seized in the year 1763 by a captain of the navy, at the suit of the owner, who obtained a verdict for £4046 with costs.

† The tables of imports and exports will show, how large a balance was paid by New-England, New-York, and Pennsylvania; while Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas, and in later years Georgia, sometimes received a balance from Britain.

most enlightened legislator, could wish to derive from commerce. It gave bread to the industrious in North America by carrying off their lumber, which must otherwise rot on their hands, and their fish, great part of which without it would be absolutely unsaleable, together with their spare produce and stock of every kind; it furnished the West-India planters with those articles, without which the operations of their plantations must be at a stand; and it produced a fund for employing a great number of industrious manufacturers in Great Britain; thus taking off the superfluities, providing for the necessities, and promoting the happiness, of all concerned \*. This trade, however, was almost entirely ruined by the rigorous execution of the new orders against smuggling, and the collection of the duties in hard silver, which soon drained the country of any little real money circulating in it. And, as if government had intended to prevent the colonists from having even the shadow of money, another act was passed, in a few days after that for the new duties, declaring that no paper bills, to be thenceforth issued, should be made a legal tender in payment, and enjoining those in circulation to be sunk (that is, paid off in hard money) at the limited time.

North America was not, however, the only quarter of the British dominions distressed by these measures.

For a long course of years the Spanish colonists in America had been accustomed to resort to the neighbouring settlements to purchase European goods, the price of which the jealous policy of their own government rendered most oppressively exorbitant in the course of their regular trade. Jamaica had a principal share in this beneficial commerce, wherein the Spaniards in their small coasting vessels brought over some mules and cattle (articles more valuable to the planters than silver or gold) cochineal, indigo, some medicinal drugs, and gold and silver, coined and uncoined, to the value of ten or twenty times the amount of their little cargoes. In return they purchased linens of every kind, calicoes, and almost every article of British manufacture, which they carried home at the risk of confiscation and corporal punishment if detected, and usually made very great profits, notwithstanding the disadvantages attending purchases at second hand, and the heavy expenses inseparable from clandestine trade.

This trade, so eminently valuable in supplying Jamaica and the other islands with an abundant stock of the precious metals for their internal

\* The nature and effects of this trade are explained more fully in *An essay on the trade of the northern colonies*, printed in Philadelphia, and reprinted in London, 1764.

I do not mean to vindicate the Americans from the charge of smuggling. I know that vast quantities of goods were imported in direct violation of the letter and spirit of the law, and of the commer-

cial system, of the mother country. But how could it be otherways in a country so remote from the government, to which it professed allegiance, and possessing an extent of coast, which no chain of revenue cruisers, that could be supported by government, would be sufficient to guard with any kind of effect?

circulation (they have no paper money) and also for remittances to Britain, besides taking off a vast quantity of goods, which would otherways have been bought from the French or Dutch, and not in the smallest degree offending against any of the revenue laws, was still *illegal*; because no foreign vessels were allowed to enter the ports of any of the colonies, *unless forced in by distress*; a plea which had been constantly alleged, and admitted without any question.

But now in consequence of the great zeal and activity of the navy officers, who, in rigorous observance of the act 4 *Geo. III, c. 15*, seized some of the Spanish vessels \*, and also of instructions sent to the governors for the suppression of illicit trade, whereby they were obliged to prohibit all foreign vessels from entering the British harbours in the West-Indies, this most beneficial commerce was completely abolished; and the merchants in Jamaica were involved in great difficulties by the sudden and unexpected prohibition.

The effects of the restrictions upon the trade of the northern colonies were such as were scarcely expected on this side of the water. Because the wool of the American sheep is much inferior to English wool, it was, rather rashly, supposed, that the people of America must continue to wear English cloth; not adverting, that, if they could not pay for cloth made by others, they must of necessity wear what they could make themselves, and that, where all wore coarse cloth, no one could be ashamed of the use of it. Besides, they were already so much indebted to the mother country, that, if the sources of their remittances were to be cut off, there must immediately be an end of importation, whether they chose it, or not. They therefor entered into associations, wherein it was resolved at once to retrench all superfluous expenses (and particularly funeral mournings) and to encourage every species of manufactures: and they actually set about it with so much ardour, that they soon produced such specimens, as emboldened them to think, they could, in case of necessity, live comfortably without depending upon foreign trade for any of the necessities or conveniencies of life.

April 18th—For the encouragement of the fishery in the province of Quebec, salt from any part of Europe was allowed to be imported for one year into that province in British vessels navigated according to law, in the same manner as to New-England and Newfoundland. [4 *Geo. III, c. 19*.]

The committee of merchants trading to Africa, who had the management of the British interest on that coast instead of the late African company, having represented to government, that the annual allowance

\* Mr. Edwards in his valuable *History of the West-Indies* [p. 232, ed. 1794] very justly observes, that this was 'a measure which in truth was converting our navy into *guarda-costas* for the king of Spain;' and that in consequence thereof, the exports from Great Britain to Jamaica in the year

1765 fell short of the year 1763 £168,000 sterling. And it appears from the custom-house accounts, that the exports in the year 1766 fell even a little lower than those of 1765. In 1767 they began to rise.

of £800, which the company had been permitted to deduct from the public money under their direction for salaries, house-rent and other charges, was insufficient, they were now by law indulged with a further allowance of £400 a year for the salaries of their clerks and agents in London, Bristol, and Liverpool, the rent of their office in London, and all charges of management in England. [4 Geo. III, c. 20.]

The bounties and encouragements formerly given to the Greenland whale fishery were continued till 25th December 1767, and after that to the end of the next session of parliament. [4 Geo. III, c. 22.]

Till now the letters, which were franked, or exempted from paying postage, were signed by the members of the two houses of parliament, or other privileged persons, only at the corner of a blank cover, on which the writer of the letter added the address. This manner of franking was subject not only to forgery, but to many other abuses\*, whereby the revenue of the post-office was greatly injured. It was therefore now enacted, that after the 1st day of May 1764, no letters should be exempted from paying postage, except those sent from, or to, the king, all letters, not exceeding two ounces in weight, sent to any part of Great Britain or Ireland during the session of parliament, or within forty days before, or forty days after, any summons or prorogation of the same, *the whole* of the superscription being in the hand-writing of a member of the house of lords or house of commons, and also all letters sent to the members. Letters sent to most of the public offices† in Great Britain, Ireland and America, or sent from them, sealed with the office seal or the seal of the principal officer, were also exempted from postage. And the printed votes and proceedings of parliament, and newspapers, were permitted to go free, being put in covers open at the ends, and franked by certain clerks of the secretary of state's office, or certain officers of the post-office. Forgery of franks was rendered punishable by transportation for seven years. [4 Geo. III, c. 24.] In the examination previous to passing this act it appeared, that the postage of franked letters on an average of several years past, was equal to £170,000 a year; a great part of which was by the new regulation added to the revenue.

In order to obtain a cheaper and surer supply of hemp and flax, and to encourage the cultivation of it in the American colonies, the parliament granted a bounty of £8 on every tun of clean merchantable hemp, or rough flax, imported from the British American colonies from 24th June 1764 to 24th June 1771, and thence to 24th June 1778 a bounty of £6, and thereafter to 24th June 1785 of £4; the pre-emption of all such hemp and flax being offered to the commissioners of the navy, and

\* It was common for the servants of members to ask their masters to sign great numbers of franks at a time, which they openly sold to people, who made a trade of retailing them.

† The offices are enumerated in the act.

twenty days being allowed for their determination before the importer could be at liberty to sell it to a private buyer. [4 *Geo. III, c. 26.*]

Rice was allowed to be carried from South Carolina and Georgia, in vessels belonging to British subjects, directly to any part of America southward of Georgia, on paying one half subsidy, which was equivalent to the duty remaining, if the rice were brought to Britain and re-shipped on a drawback. [4 *Geo. III, c. 27.*]

In order to prevent provisions from being raised to an exorbitant price, the king was empowered, with the advice of his privy council, to permit the importation of salted beef, pork, bacon, and butter, from Ireland, such provisions paying at landing a duty on the salt employed in curing them. [4 *Geo. III, c. 28.*]

For the encouragement of the whale fishery in the River St. Laurence, the fins of whales, caught in that river, and on the coasts of British America, were allowed to be imported on paying only the old subsidy directed by the act 25 *Car. II, c. 7.* [4 *Geo. III, c. 29.*]

Whereas some merchants, bankers, and other traders, within the statutes relating to bankrupts, having privilege of parliament, had claimed exemption from the bankrupt laws, it was now enacted, that such traders should be liable to a commission of bankruptcy as well as others. [4 *Geo. III, c. 33.*]

The English linen company was established as a corporate body, chiefly for the purpose of making cambrics and lawns of the kind called French lawns, with a joint capital stock which should not exceed £100,000. The goods, in order to certify them to be of English manufacture were to be sealed at each end of the piece by proper officers, before they were taken out of the loom. [4 *Geo. III, c. 37.*]

A great improvement in the spinning wheel, whereby a child may spin twice as much as a grown person can do with the common wheel, was invented by Mr. Harrison, for which the patriotic society for the encouragement of arts and commerce gave him a premium of fifty pounds.

The convention of royal burghs of Scotland represented to the king, that the agriculture and manufactures of the country required the labour of all the working hands in it, and therefor prayed he would revoke a licence that had been given to the Dutch of recruiting their army in Scotland. The country must be in a wretched condition indeed, which exports its natives. Such is the condition of a great part of Africa. But may it never more be such of any part of the British dominions.

During the war a vessel belonging to Liverpool, having parted with her convoy, was taken by the enemy; whereupon the owners applied to the underwriters for her value, who refused to pay it. On the matter being brought before Lord chiefjustice Pratt (afterwards Lord Camden)

it appeared, that the vessel had intentionally parted from the fleet; and therefor it was determined by a special jury, that the underwriters were not liable for the loss (May 14th.) This decision, as being a precedent in a matter of great commercial importance, is worthy of this brief notice.

It may be considered as a convincing proof of the increasing prosperity of London, that a piece of waste ground in Picadilly, which a brewer had bought some years before at the price of £30 for putting his casks and lumber in, was now sold for £2,500.

For some years the French East-India company had been very rapidly declining, notwithstanding a dividend of 40 livres on each share and other advantages allowed them by the king; who now also made them a present of 11,835 shares belonging to himself, and empowered them to make a call on the proprietors for 400 livres on each of the 38,433 remaining shares, which raised them to 1600 livres, and in consideration thereof to raise their dividend to 80 livres a share, and to reduce such proprietors as should refuse to answer that call to five eighths of the new share. At the same time he relieved them of the burthen of the isles of France and Bourbon, the direction of which, like that of the other colonies, he committed to the department of the marine\*.

July 7th—The king of Denmark desirous of drawing a trade to his West-India possessions, established free ports in his islands of St. Thomas and St. John†, on the following conditions.

European merchandize to be carried thither only by the king of Denmark's European ships furnished with passports, and to pay two per cent ad valorem on importation. American produce to be admitted in vessels of any nation, and to pay five per cent of the usual duty; and such vessels may export any goods free of duty. But no vessels are permitted to go from these islands to St. Croix for a cargo.—Produce imported into these islands to be carried to Europe only in the Danish passport ships, and to be landed only in Denmark or the Danish provinces.—Those foreign productions to be exempted from foreign duty; but the produce of St. Thomas and St. John to pay five per cent.—Frauds to be punished by confiscation and fines.—Foreign sugars, brought from these islands to the Danish states, shall remain only till they can be exported again, paying a duty of one per cent.

The Spanish governor of Yucatan having given some trouble to the British logwood-cutters at the Bay of Honduras, and even driven some of them away, on pretence that they had no certificates of their being British subjects, and that they made too free with the produce of the country, proper remonstrances were made to the Spanish court, who ex-

\* This new arrangement, made an annual saving of two millions of livres to the company, without affecting their exclusive commerce with the islands in the smallest degree. [*Raynal Hist. phil. et pol. V. ii, p. 322.*]

† The Danish islands in the West-Indies are mostly owned, cultivated, and inhabited, by British planters and merchants. Their newspapers are printed in Danish and English, every article being expressed twice.



preſſly diſavowed the conduct of the governor, and gave aſſurances, that freſh orders ſhould be ſent to him to give no interruption to the Britiſh logwood-cutters, to re-eſtabliſh thoſe he had expelled from their ſettlements, and to adhere ſtrictly to the ſtipulations in the 17th article of the treaty of peace; all which was ſoon after performed with the greateſt punctuality. And thus a little ſtorm, which ſome clamorous politicians had attempted to magnify into a very ſerious affair, was happily blown over.

Accounts received from Jamaica contained the following ſtatement of the condition of that important iſland.

From Chriſtmas 1752 to Chriſtmas 1762 there were imported 71,115 negroes, ſold on an average at £50 ſterling.

During ten years paſt there were imported from Madeira about 630 pipes of wine annually. The annual value of proviſions imported from Ireland was about £100,000 ſterling. During the war the annual amount of proviſions, lumber, live ſtock, &c. imported from North America was about £200,000 currency\*, of which about one quarter was paid in produce, and the other three quarters† in money or bills of exchange, which the Americans uſually carried to the French part of Hiſpaniola‡, the produce of which was at a very low price during the war.

The population of Jamaica was now ſo much increaſed as to be eſti-

\* The exchange being 40 per cent upon ſterling money, this ſum amounts to £142,857:2:10 ſterling.

† According to Lord Sheffield, the following is the calculation of the proportion of produce taken by the North-American traders in their dealings at Kingſton in Jamaica. Thoſe of the Carolinas and ſouthern provinces took rather more than half; Pennſylvania and the other middle provinces about one fourth, and the balance in caſh and bills of exchange; the New-England provinces not above one tenth, and the balance in dollars, which they immediately carried to Hiſpaniola, &c. He adds, that American veſſels uſed to clear out empty hogſheads at the cuſtom-houſe, which they filled with ſugar, &c. at the foreign iſlands, and thereby evaded the foreign duty in America: and that the New-Englanders uſed to purchaſe Jamaica produce with doubloons manufactured at Boſton, but as ſoon as the legiſlature of the iſland put a ſtop to the circulation of them, they gave up buying produce. [*Observations on the commerce of the American ſtates*, p. 178, ed. 1784.]

‡ A principal article of the purchaſes of the Americans there was melasſes, which they could not buy in Jamaica, where it is ſo valuable for the purpoſe of converting it into rum, and which they could buy on very low terms from the French planters, who, before this market opened to them,

ſometimes threw it away, as I have been told, the plenty of wine and brandy from France, and the diſcouragement of the diſtillery by their government, rendering it of no value to them. The melasſes bore a great profit in America, vaſt quantities being expended in families, and, probably, ſtill more in the diſtilleries.

Of the ſpirits diſtilled from it, a great quantity went to Africa for the purchaſe of negroes, who were generally ſold in the Weſt-India iſlands, and the proceeds reſent to Britain in bills of exchange: ſo that the French melasſes thus became the raw material of a trade, very favourable, in point of balance at leaſt, to Great Britain.

As, according to the ſoundeſt maxims of trade, raw materials for manufactures may be bought with advantage from foreigners, the acquiſition of melasſes from the French (rather than from our own planters, who know better what to do with it) was evidently as advantageous (if the diſtillery is allowed to be a beneficial, and not a pernicious, manufacture) as the acquiſition of raw ſilk, flax, hemp, iron, ſaltpetre, &c. There is no doubt, that ſome articles of French manufacture were carried to America along with the melasſes: but, if we allow our rivals in trade to underſell us in any article, a preference in the ſale of ſuch article is the unavoidable conſequence.

mated at 15,000 white people, exclusive of the military and naval establishments and the seafaring people; 4000 free people of colour; and, according to the returns made in the year 1762, 146,464 slaves.

As it was found inconsistent with the interests of the British commerce, and most particularly of that of Jamaica, to prohibit the resort of Spanish vessels, instructions were sent to the governor and the admiral on the station, signifying, that Spanish vessels, coming into Jamaica *by reason of distress, or for refreshments, as formerly*, should receive the assistance they had formerly been allowed, provided they did not attempt to bring in foreign merchandize. And similar instructions were sent to the governors of the other colonies, which used to be visited by Spanish vessels.

But the public deliberations on the regulation of a trade, which had formerly been allowed silently and quietly to regulate itself, could not possibly escape the watchful attention of the Spanish ambassador. The consequence was, that the government of Spain, in order to counteract our policy, now for the first time laid open the trade to their islands to their own subjects in all the provinces of Spain, by permitting the free exportation of goods, on payment of moderate duties, to Trinidad, Puerto-rico, Hispaniola, and Cuba. But it does not appear, that this measure, however promising and apparently liberal, was productive of much benefit to the Spaniards, few of whom possessed sufficient spirit, or means, to avail themselves of the indulgence to such an extent, as to supply their colonies with proper assortments of goods, qualified to come in competition with the British manufactures, which still preserved such an ascendant in the demand among the Spanish West-Indians, as tempted them to brave all the dangers and penalties they were liable to, if detected in smuggling them.

The culture of silk was unsuccessful in Georgia this year, owing to unfavourable weather in March and April. The quantity brought to the public filature was 15,126 pounds of cocoons, being 360 less than the produce of the preceding year. At this time the Georgia silk was complained of in London, as being too round and spongy, owing to its being wound from too many cocoons at once.

The continent of America, from the mouth of the Mississippi to the frozen sea of Greenland, being now subject to Great Britain, it was thought expedient, that accurate surveys should be made of all its coasts, harbours, and rivers; for which purposes Messrs. Samuel Holland and William de Brahm were commissioned as surveyors-general of America, the river Potowmack with a line running west from the head of its main stream being the boundary between their districts. The islands in the Gulf of St. Laurence were recommended to the earliest attention of Mr. Holland, as the peninsula of East Florida was to that of Mr. De Brahm.

This year the parliament of Ireland entered in good earnest upon the

important business of the herring fishery. One of the members observed, that ' Hitherto the greatest impediments to the progress of the British fisheries carried on from Scotland have been the ill calculated laws, restrictions, and duties, laid upon salt used in curing of herrings. Let not therefor insignificant salt duties be a stumbling-block with us. As we have seen the absurdity in others, let such provision be made at starting, as may prevent any such accident from blasting the first progress of the Irish fisheries.'

An immediate consequence of the parliamentary encouragement given to the Irish fishery was, that Ireland took from Britain only about 16,000 barrels of herrings on an average of seven years, instead of about 23,000, the average quantity for a number of years previous to 1764. It is true, that the quantity imported by Ireland from the East country increased after this year: but that is accounted for by the very low price the Swedes were enabled to sell their herrings at by the wonderful plenty upon their coast, which made it an object for the Irish to procure them for re-shipping to the West-Indies.

The isle of Mann, by being independent of the British revenue laws, had become a great magazine of foreign merchandize, vast quantities of which used to be smuggled into the three British kingdoms, to all of which it is almost equally near. Therefor a number of ships of war and cutters were now stationed around the coasts of it, in order to prevent so great an injury to the revenue and to the fair trader.

The whale fishery at Greenland proved very indifferent this season. The British ships got very few fish, many of them none at all: and the Dutch got only 117, less than half of their usual number. As some compensation for their disappointment in Greenland, they fell in, near the island of Rona\*, about 40 miles north-north-east from the island of Lewis, with a small species of whales, and caught thirty-two of them, which were reckoned equal to five or six sizeable Greenland whales. Thus have the Dutch discovered another *gold mine* in our seas, which our own people in the adjacent islands unfortunately want the knowledge and the means to avail themselves of: by going after the whales, and are obliged to content themselves with now and then making a prize of a shoal of them, when they in a manner call upon them to take them by getting embayed in small inlets among the islands†.

\* From Rona there runs a bank towards Till-head in Ireland, which Sir William Monson [*Naval Traits*, B. iv] says, affords a great quantity of the best cod and ling: but he complains that it had been neglected for above a century. Other two centuries have since elapsed, and, *Quere*, Is it not still neglected?

† Spout whales and pollacks run in great number upon the shore, and are taken; as in the year 1691, near Kairston in the Mainland, [Orkney]

there run into a bay no less than 114 at once.' [*Wallace's Account of Orkney*, p. 37.] Martin, in his *Description of the Western Islands*, frequently notices the plenty of whales among them.—In the island of Northmaven in Shetland 360 whales were driven ashore in the year 1741, about 100 in the year 1791, and smaller numbers are usual. [*Sir John Sinclair's Statistical account of Scotland*, V. xii, p. 362.] and the accounts of several other insular parishes in the same work agree in the frequent.

June 1st—A French ship of sixty guns, with several other vessels under French colours, landed a number of men on the Turks islands, burnt and destroyed all the huts erected for the shelter of the salt-rakers, and after erecting two columns of stone, as monuments of *victory*, or proofs of sovereignty, they left the place, carrying with them all the British subjects and shipping, which consisted of fourteen small sloops and schooners, and leaving a few of their people in possession of the islands.

These small islands or keys, which, since the first settlement of Carolina, were reckoned an appendage of that province, as being a part of the Bahama islands\*, were only useful for the great quantity of excellent salt produced in shallow ponds every season by the heat of the sun, and had hitherto had no regular settlement formed upon them. In the proper season they were resorted to, chiefly by people from Bermuda, and a few from Jamaica, for the purpose of raking salt, and also by some vessels from the northern colonies in America, which brought flour, provisions, lumber, &c. to exchange for the salt.

The court of France, upon the application of our ambassador, disavowed the act of the comte D'Estaing, the governor of their portion of St. Domingo (or Hispaniola), who, if he really had no orders from his court, may have supposed, that, as those small islands were nearer to his own, than to any other, seat of government, they ought to belong to it, and, as unoccupied territory, ought to become the property of any who would occupy them. But, as they were too trifling an object to go to war for, especially so soon after the conclusion of a peace, D'Estaing was ordered to restore them, and to make reparation for the damages done to the British subjects.

September—A somewhat similar invasion of British property was made by the French governor of Goree, in attempting a settlement near the river Gambia, which the French in like manner disavowed, and even called him home to answer for his offence.

In consequence of a petition of the merchants, complaining of the high price of provisions, the king, by the advice of the privy council, and agreeable to the act lately passed, issued a proclamation for the free importation of salted beef, pork, and butter, from Ireland; and offered a reward of £100 for the discovery of any unlawful combinations to raise the price of provisions (October 9th). The high price of corn also occasioned some disturbances about this time. In Derby-shire the colliers,

appearance and plenty of the whales.]—Egede, in his *Description of the Fœroes*, a cluster of islands lying north-west from Shetland, [p. 171 of the *English translation*] gives a similar account of the plenty of whales among those islands, and says, that about 1000 of them were taken in two places in the year 1664. The natives melt part of the fat of these small whales for oil, and the remainder they cure in the manner of bacon, which, he says,

is scarcely to be distinguished from the bacon of pork. The lean part, in appearance and taste, resembles beef, and is used either fresh, or cured by drying.

\* In the year 1695 a vessel was seized by order of the proprietors of Carolina for not paying the tenth, claimed as due to them for raking salt on Turks islands.

finding wheat charged at  $8\frac{1}{4}$  a bushel, fixed the price at  $5\frac{1}{2}$  by their own authority, and cleared the market at that price. The gentlemen of York contributed a fund for importing foreign grain to be distributed to the poor, which, if there was a real scarcity, was at least a well-intended charity; but, if the scarcity was artificial, it may be doubted, whether the application of a part of the money, for the purpose of enforcing the laws against the counteractors of God's bounty to mankind, would not have been a more effectual charity\*.

The silk-weavers presented a memorial to the lords of trade, setting forth their hardships arising from the importation of foreign wrought silks and velvets, and praying, that at least double duties should be laid on all such goods.

At the same time the silk-throwsters and others in the silk trade presented a memorial, stating, that the quantity of raw silk imported was not sufficient to answer the demands of the trade.

A third memorial was presented by the silk-mercers, who affirmed, that there was no want of employment, but a great want of hands to execute the work offered to the weavers.

There is a strange contradiction in these three memorials. Parliament endeavoured to satisfy all parties by an act passed in the ensuing session, which will be noticed in due time.

The following account was transmitted from Nova-Scotia of the exports of that province during the year 1764.

|   |   |   |         |
|---|---|---|---------|
| 66,400 quintals of dried cod, value           | - | - | £39,840 |
| 7200 barrels of pickled fish,                 | - | - | 7,770   |
| Lumber, to the amount of                      | - | - | 700     |
| Sole leather tanned at Halifax and Lunenburg, | - | - | 200     |
| 6 tons of cheese,                             | - | - | 280     |
| Furs,   | - | - | 16,000  |

£64,790

But 22,000 quintals of the cod were caught by the people of New-England, value

39,000

So that the exports really proceeding from the industry of Nova-Scotia are reduced to

£25,790

Most of the expenses attending the late war being now paid off or

\* If we may judge from the crowds that were to be seen waiting at the different places in and about London, where bread was given out below the market price in the year 1796, when the quarter loaf was at the enormous price of  $1\frac{1}{3}$ , we may probably be warranted to suppose, that the poor lost more in the time waited in applying for the

warrants and receiving the bread, than they saved by getting it fourpence under the price. And there is reason to believe that the more worthy part of the poor generally suffered the hardship in silence, from a principle of modesty, which was in reality the best economy with regard to the value of their time.

funded, it may be proper to observe, that the capital of the national debt, which in the year 1755 was

was now, according to the accounts made up to

5th January 1764,

to which must be added the debt then remaining

unfunded,

£72,289,673 0 0

129,586,789 10 2

9,975,017 12 2

making the total debt

£139,561,807 2 4

besides which, there are annuities for terms of years and for lives, payable at the bank, the value of which must be changing every day.

But as the national creditors have no right to demand repayment of their capital from government, and as the real value of the capital is subject to daily fluctuations, it seems more correct to reckon the national debt by the amount of the annual sums actually paid to the creditors.

There were due to the stock-holders, or national creditors, on the 5th of January 1764, perpetual annuities (redeemable, however, in the option of government) to the annual amount of £4,195,032 18 7 and in terminable annuities, some for lives, others for limited terms, payable at the bank and the exchequer,

493,144 12 5

Total annual amount of the funded debt \*, £4,688,177 11 0

The revenue provided by parliament for the above, and the other branches of the national expenditure, in the year

1764 was

£7,759,574 15 7

The king of France, considering the impossibility of complying with an order against French or English vessels coming within a league of each other's islands, and that, if the British government were to retaliate by a regulation of equal severity, his own subjects must suffer by it, sent orders to the West-Indies to allow all vessels to sail along the shores with freedom, and even to put into the ports in case of necessity.

The gross revenue of the post-office this year amounted to £281,535; in the year 1664 it was farmed for £21,500; and in 1644 (only twenty years earlier) it was estimated so low as £5000. Such is the increase of correspondence, arising from the increase of commerce, and the increased facility and dispatch in the conveyance of letters.

\* The annuities of every kind payable at the bank are paid half-yearly, and those payable at the exchequer quarterly.

Authors who have written upon the national debt, by calculating the value of the terminable

annuities, have swelled the amount of the capital, variously, according to the rates they assumed in their calculations, which, it is evident, must in a great measure be arbitrary.



|   |      |                                   |                      |
|---|------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| There belonged this year to all the ports |      |                                   |                      |
| of England                                | 6918 | vessels of the reputed burthen of | 523,128 tons.        |
| and of Scotland                           | 1244 | - - - - -                         | 67,345               |
| Total                                     |      |                                   | 8162 - - - - 590,473 |

The net amount of the customs, including the West-India duty of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, paid into the exchequer in the course of this year, was,  
 from the custom-house in London, - £2,159,972 19 11  
 and from the custom-house in Edinburgh, - 9,500 0 0

Total net revenue of the customs of Great Britain, £2,169,472 19 11

There were coined at the mint in the course of the year  
 18,900 pounds of gold, value - £883,102 10 0  
 and 5 pounds of silver, - 15 10 0  
 £883,118 0 0

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Christmas 1763 to Christmas 1764 was as follows.

| Countries, &c.         | Imported into  |              | Exported from  |               |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
|                        | ENGLAND.       | SCOTLAND.    | ENGLAND.       | SCOTLAND.     |
| Africa - - -           | £35,738 9 2    | £98 12 6     | £464,878 14 2  | £196 2 1      |
| Canaries - - -         | 3,158 10 7     |              | 31,867 10 2    |               |
| Denmark, &c. - -       | 85,027 9 6     | 37,427 13 2  | 141,534 5 5    | 38,419 18 8   |
| East Country - -       | 224,499 8 1    |              | 290,331 6 9    |               |
| East-India - - -       | 1,182,844 18 6 |              | 1,165,600 12 4 |               |
| Flanders - - -         | 145,772 2 3    |              | 546,777 16 10  | 17,596 18 4   |
| France - - -           | 95,430 19 11   | 1,679 11 8   | 208,765 14 8   | 307,540 17 1  |
| Germany - - -          | 606,410 1 2    | 8,804 8 8    | 2,379,315 3 9  | 30,031 15 3   |
| Greenland - - -        | 7,936 17 0     | 1,448 10 0   |                |               |
| Holland - - -          | 371,730 2 2    | 117,929 4 2  | 2,040,467 9 9  | 313,638 11 8  |
| Ireland - - -          | 777,412 19 8   | 82,766 0 10  | 1,634,382 1 8  | 209,416 17 11 |
| Mann - - -             |                | 15 0 0       |                | 1,583 12 0    |
| Italy - - -            | 810,903 9 5    | 1,445 14 6   | 754,446 4 2    | 5,393 7 4     |
| Madeira - - -          | 5,792 9 3      |              | 40,152 12 6    | 400 0 0       |
| Poland - - -           |                | 15,300 16 10 |                | 1,837 9 11    |
| Prussia - - -          |                | 6,904 17 5   |                |               |
| Portugal - - -         | 312,974 8 5    | 11,706 8 6   | 1,244,198 6 7  | 1,169 18 6    |
| Russia - - -           | 920,293 12 3   | 92,339 9 1   | 67,952 8 6     | 272 0 2       |
| Spain - - -            | 503,489 6 4    | 6,904 18 0   | 1,318,345 4 11 | 7,299 4 4     |
| Straits - - -          | 32,271 4 11    |              | 120,574 9 7    |               |
| Sweden - - -           | 253,280 1 11   | 30,200 5 11  | 28,351 4 7     | 6,834 0 11    |
| Turkey - - -           | 191,565 16 0   |              | 70,008 16 11   |               |
| Venice - - -           | 54,992 10 5    |              | 9,952 11 10    |               |
| Guernsey, &c. - -      | 45,531 6 5     | 3,690 8 0    | 54,522 3 7     | 129 12 3      |
| Beile-isle - - -       | 0 4 6          |              |                |               |
| America in general - - |                | 349,970 10 8 |                | 233,090 10 1  |
| Hudson's bay - -       | 9,272 9 2      |              | 3,892 11 2     |               |
| Newfoundland - -       | 30,354 2 4     |              | 72,588 6 3     |               |
| St. John's island - -  | 80 17 2        |              |                |               |
| Quebec - - -           | 44,669 9 5     |              | 251,385 12 6   |               |

| Countries, &c.   | Imported into   |              | Exported from   |                |
|--|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
|  | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.    | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.      |
| Nova-Scotia - - -  | £32 19 3        |              | 15,434 17 0     |                |
| New-England - - -  | 88,157 1 9      |              | 459,765 0 11    |                |
| New-York - - -   | 53,697 10 4     |              | 515,416 12 1    |                |
| Pennsylvania - - -   | 36,258 18 1     |              | 435,191 14 0    |                |
| Virginia and Maryland  | 559,408 15 1    |              | 515,192 10 6    |                |
| Carolina - - -   | 341,727 12 7    |              | 305,808 1 6     |                |
| Georgia - - -  | 31,325 9 4      |              | 18,338 2 11     |                |
| Florida - - -  | 294 3 4         |              | 15,004 15 7     |                |
| West-Indies in general   |                 | 117,319 16 3 |                 | 69,047 13 1    |
| Antigua - - -  | 307,392 6 8     |              | 63,136 10 10    |                |
| Barbados - - -   | 300,213 17 3    |              | 181,710 11 3    |                |
| Bermuda - - -  | 165 11 1        |              | 10,534 3 7      |                |
| Dominica - - -   | 31,894 6 2      |              | 16,415 12 6     |                |
| Grenada - - -  | 206,889 13 6    |              | 65,935 3 9      |                |
| Guadaloupe - - -   | 33,551 17 0     |              |                 |                |
| Havanna - - -  | 5,735 8 0       |              |                 |                |
| Jamaica - - -  | 1,076,155 1 9   |              | 456,528 1 11    |                |
| Martinique - - -   | 3,169 6 8       |              |                 |                |
| Montserrat - - -   | 82,966 15 0     |              | 7,532 8 9       |                |
| Nevis - - -  | 60,652 11 2     |              | 7,934 16 5      |                |
| St. Christophers - -   | 283,842 4 1     |              | 98,321 8 2      |                |
| St. Vincents - - -   |                 |              | 971 15 2        |                |
| Tobago - - -   |                 |              | 349 8 5         |                |
| Tortola - - -  | 41,549 1 11     |              | 2,485 1 0       |                |
| New-Providence - -   | 4,436 6 7       |              | 2,808 6 9       |                |
| St. Croix - - -  | 8,681 12 6      |              | 6,625 16 10     |                |
| St. Eustathius - - -   | 917 0 10        |              |                 |                |
| Foreign West-Indies -  | 9,398 11 3      | 400 4 11     |                 |                |
| British and Irish linens<br>exported on bounty to<br>various countries - |                 |              | 24,863 9 2      |                |
| Prize goods - - -  | 44,361 5 2      |              | 35,782 19 2     |                |
| Imp. and exp. of England   | 10,364,307 12 3 |              | 16,202,378 16 9 |                |
| Imp. and exp. of Scotland  | 886,352 11 1    | 886,352 11 1 | 1,243,927 9 10  | 1,243,927 9 10 |
| Total, Great Britain, -  | 11,250,660 3 4  |              | 17,446,306 6 7  |                |

1765—A great part of the southern coast of Barbary was deemed inaccessible by reason of a prodigious surf continually breaking upon it. But a commodious harbour with an easy access had been discovered on that coast by Captain George Glafs, who thereupon applied to government for a grant of an exclusive trade for thirty years to his new-discovered harbour, which is situated in  $28^{\circ} 4'$  north latitude,  $11^{\circ} 36'$  longitude west from London, and is called by the natives Regeala or Gueder. According to Captain Glafs the adjacent country produces great abundance of fine wool, which the people partly manufacture, and partly sell to the Guinea caravans; but they would prefer exchanging it for British manufactures. He obtained from the natives a charter in Arabic, surrendering to Great Britain the port, to which he gave the name of Hillsburgh, with a competent district of the adjacent land; which, with a plan of the harbour, he transmitted (January) to the earl of Hillsburgh. After a tedious delay, perhaps occasioned by the opposition of the merchants

trading to Morocco, who alleged that the emperor of Morocco would resent such a trade as an encroachment upon his dominions, he at last obtained the assurance of a grant for twenty-one years, and thereupon set sail with a proper assortment of goods for the trade, laid in by himself and one or two merchants connected with him. But however flattering the prospect of this new trade might be, it was entirely frustrated by the tragical consequences of the treachery, or perhaps the groundless apprehension, of the natives \*.

The manufacture of English cambrics, established some time ago, was now brought to such perfection, that they were esteemed nothing inferior to the French fabric, and promised, with due encouragement, very soon to supersede the necessity of importing any from France †.

The beginning of the year 1765 is distinguished, or at least ought to be distinguished, by two instances of nice honour and strict integrity, which deserve to be duely noticed in this work.

A lady, whose name ought not to have been suppressed, had a nephew, a grocer, who had failed about the year 1745, and paid his creditors 10s in the pound. By her will she bequeathed a sum of money to pay the balance due to his creditors.

Mr. Stephen Theodore Janssen, formerly lord mayor of London, and one of the representatives in parliament for the city, had the misfortune to fail in business the year after his mayoralty. His friends immediately settled on him an annuity of £600 for life, of which he paid annually £480 among his creditors, though acquitted of his former debts, as far as a certificate signed by the creditors could acquit him. The citizens of London, as a mark of their approbation of such honourable conduct, did themselves honour in bestowing upon him, without any previous canvass, the lucrative and confidential office of city chamberlain: and Mr. Janssen's subsequent conduct did honour to their choice. A few days after his election his brother Sir Abraham Janssen died and

\* One of his men was murdered, and the king of the place attempted to poison the whole crew: whereupon Captain Glas, being in want of necessities, which he expected to get from the shore, or, according to other accounts, with a view of selling some goods he found not saleable there, went over in his long-boat to one of the Canaries, where the Spanish governor, pretending that he was a spy, kept him in prison, till he found means, by writing with charcoal upon a biscuit, to represent his case to the captain of a British ship of war, who, after being sent to prison himself, procured his liberty. In the meantime the natives of Gunder took advantage of the weakened state of the ship's company, made an attack upon her, and were bravely repulsed by the mate, who at last despairing of his commander's return, sailed for Eng-

land with a quantity of gold, orchill, wax, woods, feathers, and skins.

Captain Glas, having been joined at Canary by his wife and daughter, embarked onboard a vessel bound for London, and had actually got sight of the land of England, when four ruffians of the crew, in pursuance of a scheme they had laid before they sailed, murdered their own commander, Captain Glas, his wife, daughter, and servant, with some of the seamen not concerned in their plot, in order to possess a large sum of money onboard the ship.

Such was the melancholy end of this enterprising and unfortunate gentleman; and with him, I believe, his projected trade also perished.

† 300 pieces were sold at Garraway's coffee-house at 13/6 a yard on an average in January 1765.

left him an annuity of £500 for life, which he immediately sold, and divided the money among his creditors. He also appropriated a considerable part of the emoluments of his office to the discharge of his debts, till the full payment of the last penny due to every one of his creditors was completely and honourably effected\*. So noble an example is worthy of being held up to all traders, who by the vicissitudes of misfortune and prosperity may be placed in similar circumstances. And he, who has it in his power to follow such an example, and does it not, may wallow in wealth and luxury; he may be fed with the insincere applause of those who pretend that merit consists in opulence; but he must never expect to enjoy the heart-felt satisfaction and peace of mind, which this HONEST MAN deservedly enjoyed.

When toiling through the thorny mazes of human crimes and follies in search of materials for commercial history, it is pleasing to meet with some blossoms of human virtues, and to endeavour to preserve them for the delight, and for the imitation, of future ages.

January 26<sup>th</sup>—The society of artists of Great Britain were incorporated, and invested with the usual privileges of corporate bodies, by a royal charter, which directs, that the presiding officers of the society shall be painters, sculptors, architects, or engravers, by profession.

Soon after this it was determined in the court of common pleas, that the publishers of engravings of portraits were entitled to the benefit of the act for securing the property of engravings.

January 28<sup>th</sup>—Salted provisions were allowed to be imported from Ireland for one year, on paying duties equivalent to the salt duties of this kingdom. [5 *Geo. III*, c. 1.]

February 9<sup>th</sup>—The British subjects in the territories ceded to France and Spain at the peace, not having been able to accomplish the removal of their property within the time limited by the act of parliament, [3 *Geo. III*, c. 17] they obtained a further indulgence till the 1st of May 1765 of importing their effects, on paying the same duties as for British produce. [5 *Geo. III*, c. 3.]

Several Mediterranean passes having during the war fallen into the hands of nations in hostility with the piratical states of Barbary, all the passes then in use were called in by proclamation, in order to be replaced by others of a new form, that no occasion might be given of any misunderstanding with those states.

The governors of the British forts on the coast of Africa had long been complaining, in their letters to their constituents, of encroachments upon their limits by the French, particularly by their intended fort at Albreda. The state of that country therefor became an object of attention to the lords of trade. On examining the information received from

\* By the death of his brother Sir Henry in February 1766 the title of baronet devolved upon him.

Africa, they found, that the forts were generally in a defenceless condition, and the garrisons unacquainted with military discipline, and too weak to afford any prospect of defence, even against the natives; that places, represented as of great importance for improving our commerce, and where the natives had even requested us to make settlements, were totally neglected; and that the civil government was as defective as the military, there being at Fort-Louis a town consisting of about 4000 people, totally destitute of government; though, in the time of the French dominion at Senegal, that town, together with Podore on the same river, was subject to the command of the French governor.

The nature of the commerce at Senegal, which is chiefly for gum, differing greatly from that on the other parts of the coast, and the inhabitants being also very different, and several settlements being made far up the river, it was conceived to be impossible for the committee of African merchants, a fluctuating body annually elected, to govern that country with propriety. It was therefor determined to erect that tract of the coast lying between Cape Blanco and Cape Rouge, and including the rivers Senegal and Gambia, into a royal government, to be called the province of Senegambia, with a civil constitution, and a military establishment for the government and security of the settlement. The expense of the civil and military establishments of the intended province, including an armed sloop and two flat-bottomed gun-boats for defending the entry of the river, was stated at £12,000 for the first year, and £10,000 a year afterwards.

By the act of parliament for vesting this province in the king, the trade of that coast was declared to be open to all British subjects, reserving, however, a power of granting to George Glafs an exclusive trade for twenty-one years to his newly-discovered port of Regeala or Gueder\*.

March 22<sup>1</sup>—The liberty of importing cattle from Ireland, free of duty was prolonged for seven years. [5 *Geo. III*, c. 10.]

It was enacted, 'that from and after the first day of November 1765 there shall be raised, levied, collected, and paid unto his Majesty, his heirs and successors, throughout the colonies and plantations in America, which now are, or hereafter may be, under the dominion of his Majesty, his heirs and successors,' stamp duties upon all kinds of legal or commercial writings or contracts, pamphlets, newspapers, advertisements, almanacks, cards, dice, &c. These duties were to be under the management of the commissioners of the stamps in Great Britain, who were to appoint officers to attend in every court through all the colonies to watch over the collection of the stamp duties †. [5 *Geo. III*, c. 12.]

\* His port was far north of the northernmost limit of Senegambia. The fate of Glafs's unfortunate enterprise has been already noticed.

† A scheme for levying a tax in the British colonies in America having been proposed to Sir Robert Walpole during the Spanish war, which

The commissioners for the discovery of the longitude having already paid to the authors of various inventions £6000, the whole sum allotted for making experiments, they were further empowered still to receive proposals, and, on seeing a probability of success, still to allow a sum not exceeding £2000 to each author of an approved plan for ascertaining the longitude. It was now that payment was ordered to Mr. Harrison of the balance of the £20,000 promised by former acts of parliament, his time-keeper having on the second trial run the longitude to Barbados within ten minutes, or one sixth of a degree \*, on condition of discovering the art of constructing his time-keeper within six months of the date of passing this act, and delivering three time-keepers made by him, and proved by sufficient trials to be capable of ascertaining the longitude with the required degree of exactness.

A reward of £3000 was allowed to the widow of Professor Mayer of Gottingen for a set of lunar tables constructed by him upon Sir Isaac Newton's principles, which were found very useful in determining the longitude; and also a reward of £300 to Professor Euler of Berlin for assisting Mayer in his work. And £5000 is offered to any one, who shall make any improvement in these lunar tables, or shall make any discovery or improvement useful in navigation. [5 *Geo. III*, cc. 11, 20.] Thus does Great Britain invite and animate the learned and ingenious of all nations to exert their talents in the service of science and commerce. Indeed, it is probable, that this great and important desideratum in navigation is, by the time-keeper, the marine chair, the improved lunar tables, and Doctor Maskelyne's improvements in the allowances for parallax and refraction, now brought as near to perfection as it is possible to bring it.

April 19<sup>th</sup>—The encouragement held out to the cultivation of madder, by the act 31 *Geo. II*, c. 12, was prolonged for fourteen years, to be computed from 1st August 1772.

May 10<sup>th</sup>—The society of the free British fishery, incorporated by act of parliament [23 *Geo. II*, c. 24] had, by virtue of several acts, enjoyed an annuity of three per cent, payable by the receiver-general of the customs on all money actually employed in the fishery, and a bounty of 30s, afterwards raised to 50s, per tun, on all vessels from twenty to eighty tuns

began in the year 1739, he smiled, and said, 'I will leave that to some of my successors, who may have more courage than I have, and be less a friend to commerce than I am. It has been a maxim with me, during my administration, to encourage the trade of the American colonies in the utmost latitude, and even to pass over some irregularities in their trade with Europe: for by encouraging them to an extensive growing foreign commerce, if they gain £500,000, I am convinced, that in two years afterwards full

£250,000 of their gains will be brought into his Majesty's exchequer by means of the labour and produce of this kingdom, as immense quantities of every kind of our manufactures go thither; and as they increase in their foreign trade, more of our produce will be wanted. This is taxing them more agreeably both to their own constitution and to ours.'

\* The greatest exactness required by the act of parliament to entitle the inventor to the highest reward was only half a degree.



burthen employed by them. But, as these advantages were to cease on the 22d of October 1767, and the charter would not expire till the 22d of October 1771, the annuity and tunnage bounty were prolonged for the remaining four years of the charter. [5 *Geo. III*, c. 22.]

The rates of postage were raised. Ships bringing letters were obliged to deliver them at the post-office. The postmaster-general was empowered to establish a penny post-office in any town in the British dominions. Letters brought by the general post for people living beyond the delivery of the general post-office, and in that of the penny-post, were directed to be delivered by the penny-post with an additional charge of one penny for each letter, whether single or double. No packets weighing above four ounces, except general post letters, were henceforth to be carried by the penny-post. Embezzlement of letters, taking notes or bills out of them, and robbing the mail, were made felony. [5 *Geo. III*, c. 25.]

The feudal sovereignty of the island of Mann had been granted by Henry IV to Sir John Stanley, ancestor of the earls of Derby, and was now possessed by the duke and duchess of Athol as heirs of the earls of Derby. But many inconveniencies being found to proceed from the island being independent of the British government, it was now given up to the crown for a valuable consideration paid to the duke and duchess.

By an abstract of the whole revenue drawn by the duke of Athol for ten years, from 1754 to 1763 inclusive, it appears to have been £85,085 : 6 : 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  island currency, which, being to sterling money as seven to six, makes £72,930 : 5 : 7 sterling, the annual average of which is £7293 : 0 : 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  sterling, whereof above £6000 were customs paid to the duke as sovereign. [5 *Geo. III*, c. 26.]

The journeymen silk-weavers, and those of the other trades connected with that branch in London, who were suffering by the fashion of wearing French silks, assembled in vast numbers on the day appointed for the meeting of parliament (10th January), and marched with drums and colours by several routes to the palace and parliament-house, in order to present petitions praying for relief by a total prohibition of foreign-wrought silks; and they also personally applied to several members in their way to the house, in the humblest terms imploring them to have pity on the wretched situation of themselves and their families. The sight of such a multitude of people, thrown idle for want of employment, and probably ready for the commission of desperate deeds, together with a report that the weavers of the inland towns were preparing to set out for London, spread a dreadful alarm, especially among those who conceived themselves obnoxious to their resentment. They however did no other mischief than breaking the windows of some houses, where they supposed French silks were sold, and were appeased

by a contribution for their immediate relief, and an engagement entered into by the principal silk-mercers to countermand all their orders for foreign silks.

That the manufacture might not suffer for want of materials, the parliament took off the old duties paid upon the importation of raw silk, and laid a new duty of  $1/3$  per pound of 24 ounces on raw silk, and  $1/9$  per same pound on thrown silk, to be paid on importation, without any drawback on exportation, except to Ireland, in favour of which a drawback of  $1/$  on raw silk, and  $6d$  on thrown silk, per pound of 24 ounces, was allowed, with an express prohibition, however, of re-exporting the raw silk from Ireland on any account whatever. [5 Geo. III, c. 29.]

In order to provide a sufficient supply for the African trade, the East-India company were empowered to import from any part of Europe, in British vessels, such quantities of coarse printed calicoes, cowries, and arangoes, as may be necessary, when their own stores of those goods are found insufficient, on obtaining a licence from the treasury, and on payment of the usual duties. But, should they neglect to procure a sufficient supply, or ask an unreasonable price, the lords of treasury were empowered to grant licences to other persons. [5 Geo. III, c. 30.]

An additional duty of  $4/$  per chaldron was laid on all coals shipped for any foreign dominion; and a duty of five per cent *ad valorem* on silks, calicoes, and other manufactures, of Persia, China, or India, shipped to any foreign country, except Africa. At the same time additional duties were laid upon policies of insurance. [5 Geo. III, c. 35.]

May 25<sup>th</sup>—An act was passed to confine the importation of gum senega to Great Britain, and laying a duty of  $6d$  per hundred-weight on the importation, and  $30/$  per hundred-weight on the exportation, of it. [5 Geo. III, c. 37.]

The goodness of roads is of the greatest consequence to the internal trade of a country, and is an object well deserving the attention of every wise legislature. In the preceding reign the narrow wheels, which plowed up the roads, were discouraged by exempting carts and waggons, having wheels of nine inches in breadth, from part of the toll duties paid by those with narrow wheels. A considerable improvement was now made upon that regulation, by directing that those who, by forming their axles of different lengths, should make their fore and hind wheels together roll upon the ground in a line of at least sixteen inches in breadth, should pay only half the toll dues payable by others. In order, also, to prevent the roads from being destroyed by enormous weight, the commissioners of the roads were empowered to erect weighing engines, and to exact  $20/$  per hundred-weight from all waggons weighing above six tuns, and all carts above three tuns. [5 Geo. III, c. 38.]

The island of Mann, not having been hitherto subject to the British revenue laws, had been a magazine for the reception of India and other foreign goods of all kinds, which were clandestinely imported from thence into Great Britain and Ireland. But, in consequence of the purchase of the sovereignty, it was now subjected to the controul of the British legislature; which enacted, that after the 1st of June 1765 the revenue officers should search all vessels arriving in that island, and seize all goods illegally imported, in the same manner as in Great Britain; that no foreign spirits should be carried thither but from this kingdom; and that none should be brought into this kingdom from thence. Several regulations for the coasting trade, &c. were also enacted. [5 *Geo. III, c. 39.*]

By an act, containing a multitude of regulations for rendering the execution of the revenue laws more effectual, and the revenue more productive, the linens manufactured in Mann were entitled to the same bounty on being shipped from Great Britain, that British and Irish linens are entitled to: and the people of Mann were allowed to import into Great Britain the cattle and manufactures of the island, except woollen manufactures, beer, and ale, without paying any duties on importation.

The smugglers being deprived of their principal repository by the island of Mann being subjected to the revenue laws, it became necessary to cut off another means of defrauding the revenue and injuring the fair trader, which was practised by shipping bounty goods for the islands of Faroe (or rather Foeroe), subject to Denmark, and lying in the Northern ocean between Shetland and Iceland, where a great deal of smuggling business has been carried on. Such goods having been often entered for those islands with an intent to obtain the bounty or drawback, and afterwards relanded in some part of Great Britain, it was now enacted, that no bounty or drawback should be allowed upon any goods to be sent thither; and that any person entering goods for bounty or drawback to be carried to other foreign countries, and notwithstanding landing them in Faroe, should forfeit the bounty, three times the value of the goods, and also the vessel which carried them. [5 *Geo. III, c. 43.*]

For securing and encouraging the trade of the American provinces, large bounties were allowed on the importation of deals, planks, and timber, the growth of those provinces. The liberty of exporting rice to those parts of America south of Georgia, formerly granted to that province and South Carolina, was extended to North Carolina. Rice imported into Plymouth, Exeter, Poole, Southampton, Chichester, Sandwich, and Glasgow, and intended to be immediately exported, was exempted from paying any other duty than half the old subsidy. The

American colonies were allowed to ship their iron \* for Ireland, and their lumber for Ireland, Madeira, the Azores, and any part of Europe to the southward of Cape Finisterre, as well as to Great Britain. [5 *Geo. III*, c. 45.]

Foreign-manufactured silk stockings, silk mitts, and silk gloves, were prohibited to be imported after the 24th of June 1765; and the prohibition of the importation of ribands, laces, and girdles of silk, enacted by Henry VII, was now enforced by a heavier penalty. [5 *Geo. III*, c. 48.]

The banks in Scotland, in order to guard against the distress of a run upon them, used to insert in their notes, what was called an *optional clause*, whereby they reserved a power of postponing payment for six months, and paying interest from the day of the demand. But the option being complained of, as perverting such paper from being a substitute for current money †, it was enacted, that, after the 15th of May 1766 all bank notes should be made payable on demand, except post-bills, which, as before, may be made payable seven days after sight. Another, and a much greater, abuse had also crept in, which was, that notes, called bank notes, for ten shillings, five shillings, &c. were issued by obscure persons in many villages in Scotland, which almost entirely banished silver out of the circulation. To put a stop to this evil, all notes under twenty shillings were prohibited to be current after the 1st of June 1765. [5 *Geo. III*, c. 49.]

All the laws, hitherto made for regulating the streets of London, being found defective, a new act was passed, giving larger powers to the commissioners, and extending them to the Surry side of Westminster bridge. [5 *Geo. III*, c. 50.]

The several laws for regulating the manufacture of woollen cloths in the west riding of York-shire were repeated; and the justices of that riding (not being themselves concerned in the woollen trade) were directed to appoint men of good character, bred to the woollen manufacture, to inspect, measure, and seal, all cloths at the fulling mills, and to keep a proper register of the cloths and the makers: and the clothiers were moreover directed to put their names and residence in the end of every cloth, woven or sewed in plain legible letters. [5 *Geo. III*, c. 51.]

June 1<sup>st</sup>—In consequence of the purchase of the sovereignty of Mann, formal possession was taken for the king, by hoisting the British colours at

\* When the encouragement of the American iron was under consideration, the manufacturers of London, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, &c. gave evidence, that it was in all respects equal to the Swedish iron for every purpose.

† In the year 1762, 1763, 1764, when the abuse of the optional clause was at the greatest height, the exchange between London and Dumbfries was sometimes four per cent against the later,

though it is not thirty miles from Carlisle, where the exchange with London was at par. In Carlisle bills were paid in gold and silver, but in Dumbfries in notes of the Scottish banks, which the uncertainty of getting them *immediately* changed for gold or silver, thus degraded four per cent under their nominal value. [*Smith's Wealth of nations*, V. i, p. 492, ed. 1793.]

Castletown, the capital of the island : and the new arrangements for the government, and collection of the revenue, as also the establishment of a custom-house, and excise-office, took place. The traders in the island were allowed six months to dispose of their stock, at the expiration of which time they became subject to the same taxes and restrictions as the people of England. But most of the strangers who were settled on the island declined availing themselves of the six months indulgence, and removed from it immediately after the change of government.

So eager were the French in pushing forward the population and improvement of their colonies, that all people, declaring themselves willing to go to them, were furnished at the public expense with carriages to convey them to St. Jean de Luz, where they were decently maintained till a vessel was ready to carry them to the place of their destination.

July 19<sup>th</sup>—The proprietors of the million bank, whose dividends had been reduced in the year 1728, from *five* to *four* per cent, agreed at a general court to restore them to *five* per cent.

A ship of war of 74 guns was built at Milford haven ; which, if I mistake not, is the first instance of any ship for the navy being built on the west side of Britain.

The pearl fishery in Scotland, so considerable in antient times, but of late almost wholly neglected, was this summer revived with considerable advantage in the river Spey.

By a trial at Gildhall upon an insurance cause, it was determined, that the owner of a vessel, which is not sea-worthy, not only loses the benefit of the insurance, but is also liable to the shippers upon freight, for the losses arising from the insufficiency of his vessel. This precedent ought to be generally known, as it may operate, as well as a surveyor, to make owners particularly attentive to the condition of the vessels on-board which they propose to receive other people's property.

Mr. Witchell's marine table for facilitating the calculation of the longitude by the lunar method, was approved of by the board of longitude, who advanced him £1000 to enable him to proceed in his work. They also appointed him and Messieurs Lyons, Wales, Mapson, and Durnithorne, to compute an Ephemeris, to be published for promoting the sciences of astronomy and navigation (July).

About this time Mr. Dingwall, a Scottish clergyman and mathematician, endeavoured to make an improvement in another very important branch of nautical science, by calculating astronomical tables for discovering the variation of the compass. But the principles, which regulate this wonderful deviation of the magnetic needle from the true meridian, still continue to elude the researches of human science.

Among the efforts of the king of Prussia to introduce manufactures and commerce in his dominions, were the erection of a bank ; and of an office for insurance with a capital of 1,000,000 crowns in 4000 shares

of 250 each, and an exclusive privilege for thirty years; also a company for trading to Turkey with a capital of 1,000,000 rix-dollars; and an East-India company at Embden with a subscribed capital of 125,000 crowns\*, of which the subscribers were to pay in two thirds; and the partners of the ruined company, which was abolished in the year 1763, were entitled to a preference in the subscription.

The city of Hamburg also this year established an office for insurance, with a capital subscription of 500 shares of 1000 dollars each.

Nine ships from the Spanish American dominions arrived at Cadiz in the month of August, whose cargoes were valued at eleven millions of dollars, whereof the registered gold and silver were almost nine millions: and it is probable, that the unregistered, or smuggled, bullion amounted to two or three millions more. It is doubtful, if Great Britain was not as much interested in the arrival of those rich ships as Spain.

Some grievous discontents among the coal-workers in the neighbourhood of Newcastle and Sunderland broke out in dreadful excesses, which continued from the middle of August till the end of September. They set fire to the coals which were ready for shipping, and even to the coal mines under ground, broke up the coal ways, and destroyed all the machinery; in consequence of which about 600 ships, and 100,000 men, in Newcastle, Sunderland, and London, were thrown idle, all business connected with the coal trade was at a stand, and coals rose to an enormous price in London. While all the adjacent country was convulsed with violence and outrage, the coal works at Hartley, belonging to Mr. Delavall, whom the coal-workers distinguished for his humane treatment of his workmen, were carried on in perfect tranquillity: an important lesson to all, who have occasion for the services of a great number of their fellow-creatures.

The emperor of Morocco informed General Irwin, the governor of Gibraltar, that he was desirous of moving the chief trade of his dominions to his port of Mogadore†, where all strangers, and particularly the English, might rely on enjoying every encouragement and protection, with a diminution of the duties on imports and exports, and a total remission of the anchorage dues annually paid at his other ports, in powder, ball, or money. The British merchants, however, were very far from approving of the change made by the emperor, which they considered as a very gross oppression; and they asserted that Mogadore would be a very inconvenient harbour for their commerce‡.

\* A company, whose whole capital (if indeed there is no mistake in the sum) was far short of the outfit of one East-India ship, could expect no very great success in attempting an East-India trade.

Raynal has not even condescended to mention this new establishment, when giving an account of the unfortunate East-India trade of Prussia. [*Hist. philos. et polit.* V. iii, p. 54, ed. 1782.]

† Mogadore is apparently the small island called

Kernè by Hanno, and the most antient commercial establishment on the west side of Africa.

‡ The same emperor, when prince of Saffy, about the year 1755 maltreated two British mercantile houses, and robbed them of about £17,000. These enormities almost put an end to the residence of British merchants, who had formerly been pretty numerous in the dominions of Morocco.



The first of November was the day appointed by parliament for the commencement of the operation of the stamp act in America ; and from that day no business of consequence could be legally transacted without stamped paper. But of all the stamped paper, sent out by government to the various provinces of America, not one sheet was to be found from New-England to South Carolina, the whole being burnt by the incensed populace, except one small parcel, which had been delivered by the governor of New-York into the hands of the magistrates of the city, who received it on the express condition, that it should not be used. On that day the warehouses were shut up ; the vessels in the harbours exhibited their colours hoisted halfway up in token of mourning : there was no appearance of business on the wharfs, nor on the rivers ; the courts of justice were shut up ; business of every kind was at a stand ; and an universal spirit of discontent pervaded all ranks and descriptions of people throughout the whole country.

In the meantime a new and general agreement was entered into by the merchants of the colonies, to import no more goods from Great Britain, to countermand their orders for whatever goods should not be shipped before the 1st of January 1766, and not to receive on commission any goods consigned from Great Britain after that day. As their agreement did not affect the trade with Ireland, such articles as they could not do without were imported from that country, in return for flax-seed and hemp-seed ; so that the commerce of Ireland reaped some advantage from the disagreement of the colonies with the mother country. In order, however, to be as much as possible independent of any supplies from Europe, the spirit of manufacturing was revived with great ardour ; and it was patronized and directed by a society established at New-York, upon the model of the society for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce, in London. Linens, cloths, made not only from the wool of sheep, but also from beaver's wool, spades, hoes, scythes, and other necessary articles of iron ware, malt spirits, paper hangings, &c. were manufactured by inhabitants of America, or by people whom liberal encouragement had drawn from Great Britain, and other parts of Europe, to settle in America ; and they were bought up with the greatest avidity, every one being desirous of appearing in American dress, in preference to British manufactures. The zeal for supporting the native woollen manufactory, even produced a resolution against eating lamb, and an agreement not to buy meat from any butcher, who should kill lambs.

Not satisfied with abstaining from importation, they also proposed to prohibit the exportation of tobacco to Great Britain ; a measure which, if it had been carried into execution, must very sensibly have affected the commerce, the navigation, and the revenue, of the mother country.

Such were the principal effects, as far as they concerned commerce,

of the stamp act in the colonies of New-England, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and the two Carolinas. Those at the northern and southern extremities of the continent submitted to the authority of the British legislature, as did also the British islands in the West-Indies, excepting St. Christophers and Nevis, the inhabitants of which were induced by some New-Englanders in their harbours to burn the stamped paper, and commit outrages on some of the servants of government \*.

In the course of this summer the French showed a disposition rather hostile to our trade in the West-Indies. A fleet of about forty sail from Martinique went upon the coast of Honduras to cut logwood, in prejudice of the British logwood-cutters, to whom that privilege was secured by the 17th article of the treaty of peace in 1763. Orders were also sent from France to seize every British vessel, which did not depart from Cap François in forty-eight hours, in consequence of which some vessels from New-York were actually seized, and the people imprisoned. As the resort of the British-American vessels to that port was by no means unprofitable to the French, the conduct of the French court is perhaps to be accounted for from a British ship of war having taken formal possession of Turk's islands, which they, after having seized, and then evacuated them in the preceding year, wished to be considered as neutral.

The African territory, including the rivers Senegal and Gambia, and extending from Cape Blanco to Cape Rouge, being by act of parliament [5 *Geo. III*, c. 44] resumed from the African merchants, and vested in the crown, the king erected it into a province, to be called Senegambia, and appointed General O'Hara governor of it, (December 28<sup>th</sup>), to be assisted by a council in matters of government; the commercial department being put under the direction of a superintendent of trade, subordinate to the governor and council.

Since Newfoundland was first resorted to as a fishing station, it had generally been the desire of government, that the fishery should be carried on by ships going from Great Britain every season, rather than by stationary fishermen upon the island. This plan had not, however, been uniformly adhered to; and so, by acting alternately upon different, or rather opposite, principles, the nation lost the benefits, which would have followed from a steady perseverance in either of the plans. A claim of right was set up to all parts of the beach, convenient for curing the fish, by the inhabitants and the owners of bye boats, to the utter exclusion of the fishermen of the ships from Great Britain, and also of those from France, entitled, under the treaties of Utrecht and Paris, to a concurrent fishery between Bonavista and Point-Riche. There being no proper

\* Many events and circumstances of the American disturbances, which were related by the writers of the time, are omitted in this work, as belonging to general, rather than to commercial, history.

establishment on the island for the execution of the laws of trade, smuggling was carried on with impunity, especially with the French settled at Miquelon and St. Pierre, during the absence of the British ships of war. And there was even reason to apprehend, that many vessels, resorting to Newfoundland as British, were partly owned by Spaniards and other foreigners.

Such being now the state of the island and of the fishery, and it being undeniable, that the fishermen settled on the island can go earlier to, and remain later upon, the fishing grounds, than the ships can do, and that they have also many advantages in repairing their vessels, stages, &c. it was evident, that, notwithstanding the disadvantages proceeding from their disorderly way of life, the quantity of fish, cured and carried to market, was now as great as in the most flourishing times of this fishery, while the exports to the island were five times as many as at that period, besides that they were supposed to take from the continental colonies twice as much as they do from home, the profits of which ultimately center in this country.

It being therefor impracticable, without very great violence, if not even injustice, to restore the system of the fishery prescribed by the act of the 10th and 11th of King William, and to abolish the sedentary fishery, the lords of trade advised that settlements and property should be ratified by laws in all parts of the island, excepting that portion of the coast, where a concurrent fishery by French, as well as British, subjects was stipulated by the treaties of Utrecht and Paris, and where a ship fishery only will be most for the advantage of all concerned.

Commodore Palliser, governor of Newfoundland, at the beginning of the season, published regulations for the fishery on the coast of Labrador, and the islands of Anticosti and the Madelaines, regulations for the salmon fishery in Newfoundland, and orders for establishing a friendly intercourse with the Esquimeaux Indians of Labrador.

At the end of the season he made up a statement of the fishery and the inhabitants of his government, by which it appears that there had arrived this year,

177 British fishing ships, of the total burthen of 17,268 tuns, and carrying 2,521 men, and 5,397 passengers, who cured 136,840 quintals of cod, valued at from 10s to 17s per quintal, and made 585½ tuns of train oil, valued at from £15 to £18 per tun;

116 British sack (or trading) ships, burthen 14,353 tuns, carrying 1252 men, who do not fish, but bring salt, or only ballast, and purchase their fish;

104 British-American vessels, burthen 6,927 tuns, carrying 666 men.

There were also made by the bye-boat men 85,096 quintals of cod, and 481¾ tuns of train oil; and by the inhabitants 310,576 quintals of cod, and 1317¾ tuns of oil.

There were carried to foreign markets,  
 493,654 quintals of cod,  
 1172 tierces of salmon, worth 40/ to 45/ each,  
 Seal-oil made last year, and whale-bone obtained from the Indians, to  
 the amount of - - - - - £5109  
 And furs taken by the inhabitants, to the value of - - - - - 980

The fishery on the coast of Labrador employed 117 floops and schooners from the provinces of Quebec and New-England, carrying 1563\* men, who between the 14th of May and the 10th of July killed 104 whales, each being of the average value of £478, and yielding on an average 140 barrels of oil, and 2000 pounds of bone. The winter seal fishery on the same coast employed 107 men, who made 500 tuns of oil, besides procuring furs, a considerable quantity of which they got from the Esquimeaux (or rather Caralits, that being the indigenous name). The value of the seal, cod, salmon, and furs, obtained upon that part of the coast is estimated at £100,000, made entirely by the British-Americans, and the greatest part of it sold to the French.

In the French fishery between Bonavista and Point-Riche there were employed 117 ships of 18,495 tuns, carrying 7862 men, who made 292,790 quintals of cod, and 2929 hogsheds of oil.

The rest of the French shipping and fishery was estimated as follows.

|   | <i>Ships.</i> | <i>Tuns.</i> | <i>Men.</i> | <i>Qu. Cod.</i> | <i>Hhds. Oil.</i> |
|---|---------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| On the banks,   | 130           | 16,000       | 3,900       | made 130,000    | 2,600             |
| At St. Pierre   | 20            | 2,600        | 1,200       | 24,000          | 480               |
| French frigates,  | 2             | —            | 400         | —               | —                 |
| Belonging to St Pierre<br>and Miquelon, and em-<br>ployed on the banks<br>and in the Gulf of St.<br>Laurence, | 50            | 2,500        | 750         | 30,000          | 600               |
| Boats belonging to those<br>islands,  | 120           | —            | 600         | 12,000          | 240               |
| Trading vessels from the<br>French West-Indies,   | 20            | 1,200        | 240         | —               | —                 |

Commodore Palliser reckoned the number of the inhabitants settled upon Newfoundland to be 15,484, most of whom were Roman Catholics, and many of them deserters from the ships, who, not being able to follow any employment during the seven months in which there is no fishery, and being under no controul of civil government, used to spend that time in idleness, and subsist chiefly by robbery, the whole of the land cultivated by them being only 1,262 acres. He was clearly of opi-

\* A subsequent report by Commodore Palliser states the number of men to be 1452.

nion, that the fishery ought to be carried on only by ships from Great Britain, and not at all by the resident fishermen \*.

The British consul and merchants at Lisbon complained that their commerce laboured under many obstructions and oppressions. The woollen trade had fallen off to about a half of what it was ten years before, partly owing to new duties, and partly to the competition of the French and Dutch woollen goods. The importation of fine hats was sunk to about a tenth part of the number in former years, occasioned partly by an importation of fine hats from France, and partly by manufactures lately set up in Portugal. About 60,000 quintals of dried cod-fish were now imported in about thirty vessels from Newfoundland; but formerly the annual importation used to be 80,000 quintals. The decrease may be ascribed partly to the advanced price of fish at Newfoundland and New-England, partly to additional duties imposed at Lisbon, and partly to the arts of the Lisbon company of fishmongers. The silk trade from England was growing considerable, when some manufactures of silk starting up in Portugal, and large importations from Spain and Italy, reduced it greatly. The trade in silk stockings was at this time pretty equally divided between England and France.

Portugal being obliged to import half the corn consumed in it, is supplied from Great Britain and the British-American colonies, the Mediterranean, Holland, Dantzik, Spain, and France; but the importers of corn complained loudly of a law prohibiting them from carrying it to another port, if the market should happen to be glutted, when they arrive in a Portuguese harbour. The British-American colonies had driven a very profitable trade with Portugal, till the late parliamentary restrictions took place. The importation of butter, beef, and pork, from Ireland was now as great as ever, because they could be got from no other country. The use of British printed linens, formerly pretty general, was now almost abolished by some arbitrary proceedings of the custom-house officers.

About twenty years before this time there used to arrive in Lisbon six or seven hundred English vessels annually, they being then in a great measure the carriers of the trade of Lisbon in the Mediterranean. But the Dutch, Danish, and Swedish, vessels, being generally larger than the English, and the port dues, of late monstrously advanced, being so contrived as to fall heaviest on the smallest vessels, the English carrying trade was so much discouraged by these circumstances, and other oppressive measures, that scarcely four hundred English vessels in a year now entered the port.

\* • It is worthy of remark, however, that he has acknowledged, that the resident fishermen could manage the fishery to better advantage; and thence

it appears, that the want of a permanent government upon the island was the chief, if not the only, cause of the enormities he complained of.

The British trade in Portugal was moreover greatly injured by means of the exclusive companies of Maranhão and Pernambuco, who oppressed the colonists in Brazil, and ruined the trade by their monopolizing avarice; also by the arbitrary usage of the board of trade (*'Junta de commercio'*) in giving protection to fraudulent bankrupts, contrary (as is believed) to the 13th article of the treaty of 1654, which provides against any protections from the claims of lawful creditors; also by the uncertainty of property, proceeding from the arbitrary conduct of the inquisition and the tribunal of inconfidencia, who frequently, on suspicion, seize the persons and properties of Portuguese merchants, and deprive their creditors of the sums justly due to them by the merchants so imprisoned. Besides all these losses, the British merchants were frequently plundered by the king's officers, who used to take up corn and other goods without the consent of the owners, and keep them many years out of their money, or never pay them at all. In short, the infringement of privileges due by treaty, the increase of duties, the decrease of the consumption of British goods by means of sumptuary laws, and the uncertainty (or rather partiality) and delay, which all must encounter, who attempt to recover their property by law in Portugal, altogether constituted such an accumulation of hardships, as rendered it impossible for the British merchants to continue their trade in Portugal, unless they could obtain redress of their grievances.

More agreeable intelligence was transmitted by the consul at St. Lucar in Spain, who reported, that the importation of British goods had increased considerably since the year 1750 at St. Lucar and Seville.

Mr. Buckland, the consul at Nice (or Nizza) in Piedmont, at first reported, that there was almost no English trade there, but observed, that, if the silks of Piedmont were to be shipped at Nice, which is a free port, it would make a saving on that article only, which is estimated at 5,000 bales annually, of 40s or 42s a bale, amounting to 10,000 pounds, or guineas, a-year. And by subsequent letters from the same gentleman, it appears, that some ships had actually this year followed the plan proposed by him with considerable advantage.

According to the report from Leghorn, the Danes and the French were hurting us in the fish trade; the French were getting the better of us in the woollen manufactures; and the Spaniards, who had lately opened some lead mines, were lessening the consumption of English lead. The other states of Italy were drawing the trade from Leghorn, which, however, was no disadvantage in a general view of the British commerce.

By the report from Messina in Sicily, the British trade in that island was about one third less than formerly, owing chiefly to the general poverty of the people, occasioned by the oppression of the barons, and the defective administration of justice; the object of the government



being the immediate increase of the revenue, without any regard to future consequences. There were still, however, more English woollen goods than Dutch or French consumed in Sicily, our returns being chiefly in raw and thrown silks shipped for England, and corn shipped for Spain and Portugal, the freights of which were considerable.

The merchants settled at Constantinople, and the several ports in the Levant, complained of the great decline in the sales of British woollen goods in those parts, those of the French being now to the British as three to one; whereas formerly they used to be only as one to three. The want of a lazaretto in England for storing their goods, when there is a suspicion of the plague being in the Levant, was also complained of as a great grievance, which, together with the importation of Turkey goods by merchants not free of their company, and the hardships put upon them by the Turkish government, altogether rendered their trade rather prejudicial, than profitable, to them. They represented their trade as being more advantageous to the nation than any other, as their exports consist almost entirely in woollen manufactures; and, by a rule of their company, no bullion is ever exported: and, on the other hand, their returns are in raw silk and mohair, which are materials essentially necessary in some of our most important manufactures.

Mr. Fraser, the consul at Tripoli in Barbary, reported, that there was not a single British merchant settled in the kingdom of Tripoli.

According to the reports of the consul at Ostend, the British trade in Flanders had increased greatly in the articles of tobacco, rice, and raw sugar, since the year 1740; but the importation of British woollen goods, earthen ware, paper hangings, and printed linens and cottons, had considerably decreased, owing to the high duties laid on them by the Austrian government, and the prohibition of carrying woollen goods through the Netherlands to France and Germany: he concludes, however, by saying, that, 'if we can preserve the trade as it is, the advantage is extreme, important, and considerable, to the nation \*.'

Of the British commerce with Holland, a very ample and circumstantial account was transmitted, of which the following is the substance.

There arrived in the rivers Mase and Goree, for the ports of Rotterdam, Dort, and Schiedam, from Great Britain, Ireland, and British America,

\* In this report there is a curious specimen of Dutch stratagem. A manufacture of tobacco pipes had been set up in Flanders, which the Dutch wished to ruin. This they might have effected by a very large importation of the article; but the high duty rendered that expedient too expensive; they therefore loaded a large ship with pipes, and purposely wrecked her near Ostend. Agreeable to the marine laws of that city, the

cargo of pipes was landed, and sold there at such low prices, that the new manufacture at once sunk under the blow. But if it could have stood its ground against this one effort of Dutch malevolence, it is not probable that their eagerness to prevent any body from living but themselves would have gone so far as to repeat so costly a project.

In the year 1761, 1762, 1763, and 1764,  
 1372, 893, 847, and 881 vessels,  
 which were all British property, except 46, which were Dutch. The corn trade from Great Britain to Holland, formerly considerable, was now confined to some malt imported from Yarmouth, Wells, and Burnham; the corn from the East country, and particularly Poland, being much cheaper: some years ago from 800 to 1,000 vessels in a year arrived from England loaded with corn; in 1764 there were only 200 at Rotterdam, and 30 at Schiedam.

About 1,000 packs of woollen manufactures from Norfolk and Yorkshire, are annually imported at Rotterdam, besides a very considerable quantity from London. The value of the whole of the English woollen goods imported to Holland was estimated at £350,000 a-year, of which one third was supposed to be sent to Germany.

Woollen stockings to the amount of from £50,000 to £70,000, are annually imported from Aberdeen; and coarse woollen serges, made in the shire of Ayr\*, to the value of £10,000.

In the year 1764 Dort, Rotterdam, and Schiedam, received about 16,800 chaldrons of coals from Newcastle, and 310 from Sunderland, all carried in English ships, and all paid for with ready money: there were also four or five cargoes of coals every year brought from Milford, and large coals from the Firth of Forth, to the amount of about £5,000 a-year. Owing to the decrease of turf (or peat) in Holland, this trade was increasing.

Holland received annually from 8,000 to 10,000 hogsheds of tobacco from Glasgow, about as many from Whitehaven, Liverpool, and Bristol, and it was supposed, about 5,000 from London. Four fifths of the whole tobacco went to Rotterdam, and the rest to Amsterdam.

From Cowes there came annually from 12,000 to 15,000 barrels of rice.

From 1,500 to 2,000 tons of lead arrived annually from the Firth of Forth at Campvere, the duties on Scottish trade being lighter there than at Rotterdam, to which the lead was conveyed in bilanders by inland navigation. About 1,000 tons of lead were brought from Newcastle, Stockton, Hull, and Chester, as also a small quantity of litharge, and, in time of war, some red lead. Lead was worth £14 or £15 a tun.

From 2,000 to 3,000 barrels of pickled salmon came from Scotland, value £5,000 or £6,000: this trade used to be very considerable\*. From 12,000 to 14,000 barrels of red herrings and sprats used to be imported here in a winter; but of late years not above 3,000 or 4,000 have

\* Quere, if not rather Aberdeen-shire?

† The decrease of it may be ascribed to the increased consumption of salmon in London.

come, owing to the scarcity of the fish, which keeps the boats longer out, whereby the fish are spoiled, and the price advanced.

From 3,000 to 4,000 straws of sprats come every year from Aldburgh and Southwold.

In the year 1764 there arrived from Ireland 26,612 casks of butter, (of which nearly one half from Cork) each weighing on an average 150 pounds, and valued at about 38/ sterling.

Also 474 hogheads of tallow, each about 1,300 lb. at 27/ sterling per cwt.

445 casks of lard, each about 150 lb. at 41/ sterling per cask.

118 bags of feathers, weighing each 270 lb. from Limerick.

30 tuns of kelp, at 18/, from Waterford.

30 casks pork, at 42/, from ditto.

2,693 salted hides, at 42/, and

171,000 ox bones, at 69/ per thousand:

In time of war from 10,000 to 14,000 barrels of beef used to come from Ireland, but in time of peace only 3,000 or 4,000, being enterable only for exportation, unless there is a scarcity.

Of alum about 260 tuns were imported annually.

Grindstones from Newcastle to the value of £1,500.

Hardware was a considerable branch of trade, and dayly increasing.

Felt and straw hats, woollen and silk stockings, and silk stuffs, were also very considerable articles.

English printed linens and calicoes, being the common summer dress in Holland, were in every shop in the country. No attempts to imitate them have hitherto succeeded:

From 1,000 to 1,500 tuns of Honduras logwood used to be brought annually in time of peace from New-York, Boston, and Rhode island: and from 500 to 1,000 tuns of other dying woods from the coast of Guinea.

Sugar, ginger, cotton, and other produce of the British West-Indies, were occasionally imported, and sometimes in large quantities, chiefly from London.

Bottles used to be imported in large quantities; but the erection of a number of glass-houses in these provinces, had now reduced the demand for that article.

Stafford-shire earthen ware had lately come into request here, and in the neighbouring countries. The increase of this trade since about the year 1760 was surprisngly great.

Horses were frequently brought from London.

Birmingham and Sheffield wares of all kinds used to come in great abundance, and sell well.

Roterdam usually exported to Great Britain and Ireland, in the course of the year, about 2,400 casks of madder, valued at about £25 per cask.

Of flax from 900,000 to 1,000,000 stones (6 pounds each) from Ro-

terdam, and about 200,000 stones from Dort; medium value 2/6 per stone.

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Flax-seed at least 17,000 hogheads; value about 50/ each, |        |
| Grave-stones from Namur, to the value of about            | £1,500 |
| Mill-stones from Cologne,                                 | 1,200  |
| Tarras, received rough from Germany, and prepared in Hol- |        |
| land,   | 2,000  |
| Clinkers, made in Holland,                                | 2,000  |
| Rushes for matting chairs,                                | 1,600  |
| Spice,—they quantity very great, but not ascertained.     |        |

A small quantity of fine thread from Juliers, and also of Dutch tapes, sail-cloth, and linens. The British demand for these articles, formerly very considerable, is daily decreasing.

Gold and silver for the service of the East-India company, and also for other purposes of remittance, when the fluctuating course of exchange happens to require it.

Brandy and gin were formerly the chief objects of the smuggling trade, which was now almost at an end. A great quantity of gin was still carried to England and Ireland to be regularly entered.

To all these may be added the transportation of German emigrants for peopling the British provinces in America\*.

The British factory at Hamburg, the members of the most ancient commercial society belonging to Great Britain, observed in their report, that, since the trade was laid open in the first year of William and Mary, it has been on the decline and getting into the hands of foreigners.

In time of war, Hamburg being a considerable magazine for the inland consumption of Germany, and a neutral place, many prize goods are sent to it for sale, both by the English and the French. During the war the English factory flourished by the consignments from England, and still more by those from America and the West-Indies, inasmuch, that France used then to be supplied with sugar from Hamburg: but now from 50,000 to 60,000 hogheads of French sugars were carried annually to Hamburg, and they had already driven the English sugars out of the trade.

Such is the account given by the members of the factory: but that the general British trade with Hamburg was not on the decline, may be presumed from the following enumeration of ships arrived at Hamburg, transmitted by the consul.

\* This account, though long, will not be thought tedious by those who wish to mark the changes brought about in trade by time. Instead of carrying our cotton to Holland, we now collect cotton from every part of the world, to supply the vast variety of extensive manufactures, of

which it is the material. Formerly we ate all our meat off plates made at Delf in Holland: now the Dutch generally use our Staffordshire plates. And it is pleasing to observe, that almost all the other alterations are favourable to the British manufactures.

In the year 1760, 1761, 1762, and 1763, there arrived  
160, 220, 240, and 209 British ships.

The arrivals at Hamburgh in the year 1764, were

| from                         | British vessels. | Hamburghers. | Of other nations. | Total. |
|------------------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------|
| British ports, -             | 231              | 56           | 36                | 323    |
| British American colonies, } | 2                |              | 2                 | 4      |
| France, -                    | 7                | 37           | French, 2 }       |        |
|                              |                  |              | Dutch, 103 }      | 154    |
|                              |                  |              | Others, 49 }      | 198    |
| Spain, - -                   | 5                | 4            | (no Spanish)      | 19     |
| Portugal, Italy, Russia,     | 18               | 13           |                   | 28     |
| Sweden, Norway,              |                  | 5            | Swedish, 31 }     | 48     |
| Greenland, Baltic, }         |                  |              | Dutch, &c. 43 }   | 79     |
| North sea, Stettin, }        | 4                | 42           |                   | 74     |
|                              |                  |              |                   | 99     |
|                              | 267              | 157          | 386               | 810    |

There arrived at Hamburgh in the year 1765,

| from                 | British vessels. | Hamburghers. | Of other nations. | Total. |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------|
| British ports, -     | 218              | 41           | 33                | 292    |
| France, -            | 5                | 36           | French, 5 }       |        |
|                      |                  |              | Dutch, 125 }      | 171    |
|                      |                  |              | Others, 41 }      | 212    |
| Spain, Canaries,     | 10               | 3            | Spanish, 2 }      |        |
|                      |                  |              | Others, 45 }      | 47     |
| Portugal,            |                  | 1            |                   | 60     |
| Italy,               | 16               |              | (no Italian)      | 14     |
| Russia, Sweden, }    |                  |              |                   | 19     |
| Norway, Greenland, } | 3                | 61           |                   | 35     |
|                      |                  |              |                   | 93     |
|                      | 252              | 142          | 377               | 771    |

The decrease of British ships this year was chiefly owing to the Hamburgh sugar-refiners having overstocked themselves with sugars in the year 1764, and not to the apprehended superiority of the French in that article; the French imports being also lower in sugars this year than the last, but higher in wines from Bourdeaux.

The British trade to Denmark was said to be almost annihilated at this time.

The consuls and merchants at Barcelona, Mahon, Smyrna, Madeira,

and Naples, complained in general of oppressive laws and customs, and arbitrary proceedings of the people in power.

There were many other reports, which contained nothing particular with respect to commerce.

To this view of the trade of our merchants settled in foreign countries I shall add an account of the shipping in two of our principal ports.

There were entered inward this year at Bristol 384 British, and 47 foreign, vessels; and outward 319 British, and 44 foreign\*.

In Liverpool there was entered inward 738 British, and 65 foreign, vessels; and outward 795 British, and 70 foreign.

In the year 1565 Liverpool possessed only 12 vessels, the whole burthen of which was only 225 tuns, not the burthen of one modern sizeable ship for foreign trade.

From these statements it appears, that Liverpool had gained ground greatly upon Bristol, and was henceforth to be considered as the second port in Britain, and the commercial capital of the west coast.

In Hindoostan we have seen that Cossim Aly Cawn was driven by the arms of the East-India company to seek for refuge at the court of Sujah Dowlah nabob of Oude, who, after the death of Major Adams, openly espoused the cause of the exiled nabob. Though Sujah was a prince of considerable military talents and reputation in the country, his army, together with that of Cossim, was completely routed with great slaughter by Major Munro at Buxar (22d October 1764); and soon after Allahabad, one of his most considerable cities, fell into the hands of Sir Robert Fletcher (who succeeded Major Munro); and in May 1765 Sujah himself surrendered to General Carnac (the successor of Sir Robert Fletcher) submitting the determination of his fate to the arbitration of Lord Clive, when he should arrive. And thus Cossim, for whose personal safety Sujah had previously provided, was again reduced to the condition of a fugitive.

In the meantime Mir Jaffier, the company's nabob of Bengal, died, having, according to the custom of the country, appointed his oldest surviving son his successor, in preference to his grandson, the infant child of his oldest son, who died before himself. The servants of the company at Calcutta made the new nabob agree to pay the company £800,000 sterling annually, in consideration of which they engaged to relieve him from the trouble and expense of maintaining an army, and to take the defence of his country into their own hands. They also bound him to many other very hard conditions, one of which was, that his prime minister should be appointed by them; or,

\* Mr. Anderfon (under the year 1754) relates, that in the year 1743 he was told, that there were 400 ships belonging to Bristol employed in foreign trade.



in other words, that they should send a governor to rule the kingdom, and leave him only an empty title.

Such was the situation of affairs, when Lord Clive arrived at Calcutta (3d May 1765), with more ample powers than any preceding governor of Bengal had ever been vested with. He adopted the policy of making Sujah a friend, instead of an indignant conquered enemy, and restored all his dominions, except the provinces of Corah and Allahabad, which he assigned as part of an establishment for the nominal mogul, who had thrown himself upon the protection of the British army. At the same time he obtained from the mogul a formal grant to the company of the administration of the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa, on condition of paying an annual quit-rent of 26 lacks of rupees (£260,000). Thus a territory much larger than Great Britain and Ireland, producing at least a million sterling of net revenue,\* and containing at least ten millions of inhabitants, was acquired to the company; a provision was made for the representative of the antient potent sovereigns of Hindoostan, who till now was not in possession of any certain revenue or residence; and Sujah Dowlah was in a better situation than he expected after his unfortunate campaign. As for the nabob of Bengal, a pension of 53 lacks of rupees (£530,000) was allowed him by the company†.

In the course of this year several improvements were made in the chemical and mechanic arts subservient to some important manufactures. The society for the encouragement of arts, &c. gave a premium of £100 to Mr. Spurrit of Isleworth for his method of dying cotton yarn of a durable Turkey red; and Mr. D'Ambournay, a botanist of Paris, discovered a dye-stuff, which produced the same effect. A premium for the same useful discovery was also offered by a society for the encouragement of the arts in Hamburgh. The process of dying purple and crimson with a vegetable, which is quite common, was exhibited by the baron de Beust before the chemical committee of the society of arts. In New-England they fell upon the method of making pot-ashes, equal to those of Hungary, for the use of the glass-maker and bleacher; and pearl-ashes were brought from Minorca, then a part of the British dominions, which were scarcely inferior to those of Trieste. A tanner of Battle in Suffex discovered a method of tanning calf skins with the saw-dust of oak, whereby every particle of that valuable wood may be rendered useful, and the oak trees may be allowed to grow up to a sufficient size for their noble destination of ship-building. Mr. Charles Douglas Bowden, and Mr. Erskine, each

\* Lord Clive estimated the net revenue at £1,700,000 sterling. Major Rennell's sketches of the history of Hindoostan, prefixed to his *Memoir of a map of Hindoostan*.

† I have borrowed part of this narrative from

invented a new engine for raising water, and both; being submitted to the society for the encouragement of arts, were by them considered as superior to the chain pump.

There belonged this year to all the ports  
 of England 7,076 vessels of the reputed burthen of 542,566 tons,  
 and of Scotland 1,308 - - - - - 75,136

Total - 8,348 617,702

The net amount of the customs including the West-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the course of the year,  
 was from the custom-house in London - £2,264,231 17 5  
 and from the custom-house in Edinburgh - 7,000 0 0

Total net revenue of the customs of Great Britain £2,271,231 17 5

There were coined at the mint in the course of the year  
 11,520 pounds of gold, value - £538,272 0 0  
 and 6 pounds of silver, - 18 12 0

£538,290 12 0

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain, from Christmas 1764 to Christmas 1765, was as follows.

| Countries, &c.   | Imported into   |              | Exported from   |              |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                  | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.    | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.    |
| Africa - -       | £51,692 2 11    | £53 5 0      | £469,034 14 4   | £371 19 0    |
| Canaries - -     | 8,591 4 11      |              | 42,365 15 8     |              |
| Denmark, &c.     | 85,901 3 9      | 34,204 9 3   | 132,588 16 10   | 47,512 8 4   |
| East Country - - | 128,901 18 2    |              | 239,717 5 5     |              |
| East-India - -   | 1,455,589 1 2   |              | 914,278 14 1    |              |
| Flanders - -     | 146,412 4 9     | 568 12 0     | 456,817 19 1    | 49,082 0 5   |
| France - -       | 186,333 8 10    | 1,202 8 7    | 153,076 11 0    | 130,149 11 8 |
| Germany - -      | 602,624 12 7    | 6,024 17 1   | 1,869,465 18 8  | 42,262 10 8  |
| Greenland - -    | 10,639 11 0     | 4,254 0 10   | 15 5 7          |              |
| Holland - -      | 420,273 4 3     | 101,293 12 5 | 2,026,772 16 11 | 373,245 10 9 |
| Ireland - -      | 1,070,533 11 11 | 84,651 7 8   | 1,767,020 1 6   | 276,310 11 4 |
| Mann - -         |                 | 73 2 0       |                 | 804 0 8      |
| Italy - -        | 785,030 7 6     | 1,769 7 10   | 824,803 5 8     | 10,277 1 0   |
| Madeira - -      | 3,974 12 1      | 78 5 5       | 40,797 3 3      | 320 0 0      |
| Poland - -       |                 | 16,572 5 10  |                 | 836 0 2      |
| Prussia - -      |                 | 7,609 2 0    |                 | 61 4 0       |
| Portugal - -     | 354,307 5 1     | 13,996 12 1  | 679,037 16 1    | 3,110 0 10   |
| Russia - -       | 967,339 11 7    | 89,801 12 0  | 76,170 18 9     | 249 1 6      |
| Spain - -        | 594,893 9 3     | 7,695 17 2   | 1,237,551 3 11  | 10,667 8 7   |
| Straits - -      | 28,057 7 8      |              | 80,306 16 0     |              |
| Sweden - -       | 234,452 0 1     | 32,306 1 1   | 49,003 17 8     | 5,454 14 6   |
| Turkey - -       | 122,652 2 11    |              | 91,735 1 3      |              |

| Countries, &c.            | Imported into    |              | Exported from   |                |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
|                           | ENGLAND.         | SCOTLAND.    | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.      |
| Venice - - -              | £47,912 11 10    |              | £22,481 1 4     |                |
| Guernsey, &c. - -         | 34,545 8 5       | £2,082 12 10 | 42,467 13 5     |                |
| America in general - -    |                  | 423,885 8 3  |                 | £185,733 16 4  |
| Hudson's bay - - -        | 10,654 10 1      |              | 4,394 5 5       |                |
| Newfoundland - - -        | 43,928 4 11      |              | 70,498 7 9      |                |
| St. John's Island - -     |                  |              | 862 11 9        |                |
| Quebec - - -              | 39,034 4 2       |              | 213,509 14 9    |                |
| Nova-Scotia - - -         | 164 2 1          |              | 48,211 19 8     |                |
| New-England - - -         | 145,819 0 1      |              | 451,299 14 7    |                |
| New-York - - -            | 54,959 18 2      |              | 382,349 11 1    |                |
| Pennsylvania - - -        | 25,148 10 10     |              | 363,368 17 5    |                |
| Virginia and Maryland     | 505,671 9 9      |              | 383,224 13 0    |                |
| Carolina - - -            | 385,918 12 0     |              | 334,700 12 8    |                |
| Georgia - - -             | 34,183 15 8      |              | 29,165 16 9     |                |
| Florida - - -             | 684 8 4          |              | 19,888 9 8      |                |
| West-Indies in general    |                  | 91,360 2 6   | 1,383 15 3      | 44,429 16 9    |
| Antigua - - -             | 159,152 12 5     |              | 149,751 1 8     |                |
| Anguilla - - -            | 3,536 11 0       |              |                 |                |
| Barbados - - -            | 326,688 6 8      |              | 191,202 19 0    |                |
| Bermuda - - -             | 9,973 4 8        |              | 17,715 15 3     |                |
| Dominica - - -            | 73,497 10 10     |              | 8,656 3 3       |                |
| Grenada - - -             | 199,909 0 11     |              | 77,673 9 1      |                |
| Guadaloupe - - -          | 66,560 15 7      |              |                 |                |
| Havanna - - -             | 6,451 0 0        |              |                 |                |
| Jamaica - - -             | 1,023,091 13 9   |              | 415,624 0 4     |                |
| Martinique - - -          | 24 16 1          |              |                 |                |
| Montserrat - - -          | 66,694 12 11     |              | 15,938 15 4     |                |
| Nevis - - -               | 54,528 17 6      |              | 11,905 19 5     |                |
| St. Christophers - -      | 245,095 3 7      |              | 111,357 9 11    |                |
| St. Lucia - - -           | 447 3 6          |              |                 |                |
| St. Vincents - - -        | 4,459 14 5       |              | 1,443 18 9      |                |
| Tobago - - -              |                  |              | 546 19 11       |                |
| Tortola - - -             | 38,972 13 10     |              | 21,171 17 9     |                |
| New-Providence - -        | 4,871 3 5        |              | 4,227 18 3      |                |
| St. Croix - - -           | 7,089 10 4       |              | 4,800 18 11     |                |
| Foreign West-Indies -     | 11,874 5 8       | 2,918 5 11   | 113 8 8         |                |
| Imp. and exp. of England  | 10,869,742 13 10 |              | 14,550,507 1 8  |                |
| Imp. and exp. of Scotland | 922,401 7 9      | 922,401 7 9  | 1,213,360 8 10  | 1,213,360 8 10 |
| Total, Great Britain -    | 11,812,144 1 7   |              | 15,763,867 10 6 |                |

1766—The French were very intent upon the restoration of their manufactures and commerce, which had been very much injured and deranged in the late war, and they so far succeeded, that by this time they had in a great measure recovered their trade with many parts of the world. Notwithstanding the disasters produced by a hurricane, the most tremendous that ever was known, in their West-India settlements, their colonies in that quarter of the world were again in a flourishing condition; and their spirit of enterprise and industry was surmounting all obstacles in the way of their prosperity. About this time they obtained permission of the court of Russia to establish a French factory at Archangel (the seat of the first British trade with that country) from which they expected great commercial advantages.

From the year 1757, when the bounty on the busses fitted out for the herring fishery was raised from 30*s* to 50*s* a tun, the number of busses and men employed in that business had been considerably increased on the west coast of Scotland, where the commercial spirit of Glasgow had inspired an ardour of enterprise unknown to the rest of the country, which carried the fishery in that quarter to some extent, when all the attempts to establish it in the other parts of Scotland had proved abortive; and it was also supported by a brisk demand in Ireland and the West-Indies, as well as for the home consumption, the truest and most effectual encouragement to any undertaking. But all of a sudden the progress of their prosperity was arrested by the dreadful and unexpected stoppage of the payment of the bounty on the return of the fleet in January; the reason assigned for which was, that the peculiar branch of the Scottish revenue appropriated for that service was already anticipated for some years\*. Many of the bus-owners, who had embarked their all, and some of them much more than their all, in building busses, providing nets, casks, salt, &c. were ruined; and the damage suffered by the inhabitants of Campbeltown alone in busses, nets, casks, and buildings, was estimated by Mr. Knox at £335,049.† Such of the adventurers, as were able to stand the shock, still persevered in the fishery, in compassion to the multitude of people dependent upon them, and as the only way of employing the capital already engaged in it, trusting to the payment of the bounty on some future day; and accordingly in the following year they fitted out 263 busses. But nobody could long persevere in a fishery so circumstanced, or continue subject to the expenses and restrictions of the bounty laws without receiving the bounty‡. Some, however, by sending their vessels to clear out at Whitehaven§, obtained a regular payment of their bounty, which in the English ports was payable, not from a particular fund, as in Scotland, but from the general revenue of the kingdom.

The merchants and traders of the city of Dublin represented to the

\* The bounties were paid off in time, but mostly into the hands of people, who had brought the certificates at a large discount from the adventurers in the fishery.

† See *Knox's View of the British empire*, p. 200.

‡ As so great an author as Doctor Smith has given his opinion, that the bounty, even when reduced to 30*s* is too favourable to the adventurers, and too expensive to the nation, it is proper to observe, that the supernumerary hands they are obliged to ship, and the many restrictions and expenses, to which they are subjected by the bounty laws (to say nothing of vexatious litigations and officer's fees) must at all times effectually prevent

any adventurer from fitting out vessels 'for the sole purpose of catching, not the fish, but the bounty.' With respect to the decline of the fishery by open boats, which he regrets, it may be presumed, that the views of government were at least as much directed to the increase of the number of seamen, as of the quantity of herrings.

§ In the custom-house returns from the port of Whitehaven of vessels cleared out for the herring fishery in the years 1769-70-71 there is the following note 'The principal part of the vessels fitted out belonged to different ports in Scotland, and on their return from the fishery discharged their cargoes at their respective homes.'

lord lieutenant of Ireland, that four thousand families were supported by the trade of refining sugar, in which a capital of £340,000 \* was engaged; and they complained, that the bounty given on the exportation of English refined sugar to Ireland was a hardship upon their trade, which it could not possibly bear. They therefor begged of him either to endeavour to get the bounty taken off from refined sugar shipped for Ireland, or to promote a bill in the Irish parliament for laying a duty on the sugar when landed in Ireland, which should be equivalent to it.

The English refiners on the other hand strenuously opposed the Irish proposal, and insisted that the statement given in by them was grossly misrepresented.

Mr. James Cook having been appointed by the admiralty to make a survey of the coasts of Newfoundland †, with the opposite coast of Labrador, under the direction of Commodore Palliser, governor of Newfoundland, delivered his charts at the admiralty-office: and Commodore Palliser having proposed to the admiralty, that Mr Cook should be allowed to publish them for the service and encouragement of navigation in those seas, they were accordingly published. Mr. Cook had already, in the year 1759, made a survey of the River St. Laurence, which was also published: and it has been found so correct, that it was never thought necessary to make any other after it ‡. These were the first public displays of those great geographical talents, which pointed out Cook as the proper conductor of the voyages of discovery, which will transmit his fame to the latest ages.

February 5<sup>th</sup>—A treaty was concluded between Great Britain and Sweden, wherein it was stipulated, that their subjects should mutually enjoy in the ports of either kingdom all the advantages granted by either to the most favoured nations, excepting only an article in a treaty between Sweden and France (dated  $\frac{1}{2}$  April 1741) relating to the duties payable in the port of Wismar §.

A letter from General O'Hara, governor of Senegambia, states, that Galam, a country situated on the upper part of the River Senegal, is very rich in gold, and supplies all the Barbary states with that precious metal. He says, it consumes a very great quantity of manufactures, which are

\* The petition of the importers and manufacturers of sugar to the Irish parliament, states the capital employed at £400,000.

† Mr. Cook discovered very copious mines of coal in Newfoundland, so close to the shore, that the coals might be thrown directly from the works into the vessels; an object surely worthy of attention. [*Forster's Voyages in the North*, p. 297 of *English translation*.]

‡ Sir Hugh Palliser, his commanding officer,

said he had reason to believe, that Mr. Cook had never attempted to draw a chart before he began his survey of the River St. Laurence. But he was one of those heaven-taught geniuses, who make greater progress in science by their own powers and application than others can do by instruction.

§ The other articles of this treaty, which is uncommonly short, contain nothing concerning commerce. The reader may see it in *A collection of treaties*, by George Chalmers Esq. F. i, p. 60.

carried by numerous caravans from Morocco, Algier, Tunis, Tripoli, and Grand Cairo: and he advises, that the British consuls at these places should be directed to send intelligent persons along with those caravans in order to learn the nature of the trade; a plan, apparently, as well adapted as any to obtain the knowledge of the interior parts of Africa, now so much the object of public curiosity. He adds, that for these last fifty years there have been annually shipped from Africa about 70,000 of its prime inhabitants; from whence it may be concluded, that that continent must be extremely populous to supply so considerable an annual drain.

February 19<sup>th</sup>—Corn being scarce, the importation of it from the British colonies in America for a limited time, was permitted by an act of parliament. Oats and oat-meal were also allowed to be imported; and all exportation of corn, meal, flour, bread, and starch, was prohibited for a limited time. [6 *Geo. III*, cc. 4, 5.]

The lords of trade, having fully considered every information produced to them upon the affairs of Newfoundland and the territories annexed to it, represented to the king, that an illicit and destructive trade was carried on there with the French settled at Miquelon \* and St. Pierre; that the concurrent fishery of the British and French subjects had produced many difficulties and embarrassments; and that a state of inhabitation, unrestrained by any form or constitutions of civil government, had operated to the total subversion of that policy, upon which the fisheries dependent upon that island were originally established, and defeated the great national advantages of the statute of 10th 11th William III, principally by setting up exclusive claims to all the places on the shore which are useful for curing the fish; and such claims of property, if they are permitted, are alone sufficient to banish from the coast the ship-fishing, which Commodore Palliser conceives to be the only species of the fishery attended with the great national advantage of breeding a hardy race of seamen, capable of manning the navy in cases of emergency.

The fishery upon the coast of Labrador was embarrassed by claims set up by the antient French proprietors for fishing posts, and by others, who had engaged in fishing schemes upon the strength of temporary grants made to them by the governor of Quebec, before the limits of the governments were ascertained, who all complained loudly of the regulations published and enforced by Commodore Palliser, to whose government of Newfoundland that country was annexed. According to Commodore Palliser's accounts, the cod-fishery is more abundant, and

\* Miquelon about this time received a considerable increase of inhabitants, by the secession of several hundreds of French Acadians and Indians

from the British province of Nova-Scotia, who built a kind of town upon the island.



in all respects more advantageous, on the coasts of Labrador than on those of Newfoundland; and the fishery of seals and sea-cows can be but a secondary object, confined to particular spots of the coast, and carried on at a time when it does not interfere with the more important fishery for cod. The climate being so severe, and the country, where not covered with wood, being either bare rock or deep moss, no kind of agriculture can ever be carried on in it, further than the culture of some garden stuffs during the few weeks of summer: therefor it can never be useful in any other way than as a station for an excellent fishery; cod, whale, seal, and salmon, being all in great abundance, and of the best quality.

A description of the islands of Madelaine and St. John, transmitted about this time by Captain Holland, surveyor-general of the northern district of America, gives a particular account of the sea-cows\*, and the amount of the oil made from those animals on that island in the year 1765, viz.

In the spring of 1765, there were taken on two echouries † 2,000 sea-cows, which made 900 barrels of oil, the value of which was £2,137; of which two-thirds belong to the undertakers, who pay all charges, the people employed having instead of wages one clear third of the oil, which they generally sell to the undertakers.

The island of Madelaine appears to be useful for no other purpose but the capture of these animals, and the seal and cod fishery. The soil is generally sandy, producing little else but small pines, and spruce, juniper berries, strawberries, raspberries, &c. The only animals are foxes, which are generally silver grey.

According to Captain Holland's description of the island of St. John in the Gulf of St. Laurence, the lands formerly cleared in it had almost returned to a state of nature. The ground was covered with strawberries, and, with proper culture, might produce most kinds of grain and garden stuffs; but the extreme rigour and long duration of the winter will ever prevent this country from being valuable as an agricultural settlement. It has plenty of beasts, birds, and fish, and is exempted from the perpetual fogs, which involve the neighbouring islands of Cape Breton and Newfoundland.

\* Those animals being even now but little known, a brief description of them may be acceptable. When very young, they weigh only about 50 pounds, but in five or six years they get to the weight of about 2,000 pounds. They are very ugly, resembling a toad in form and colour with a head somewhat like that of a cow (whence their name) having in each upper jaw a tusk of ivory about a foot and a half long. They have four fins armed with small claws, by means of which they can clamber up a steep bank. They

can scarcely see an object at the distance of twenty yards; but their senses of smelling and hearing are so very acute, that, if the men, who attack them when basking on the land, did not approach them on the leeward side, they would instantly rush into the sea, and probably carry their invaders along with them. Their skins are an inch in thickness, and are cut into traces; but the most valuable part is the fat, of which the oil is made.

† So the French called the sloping banks frequented by the sea-cows for resting and basking upon.

The long-dependent business of the Canada bills was finally and amicably settled. But, in order to render the affair intelligible, it will be necessary to look back to the origin of those bills.

However profitable the trade of Canada, when under the French dominion, may have been to the individuals concerned in it, it was far from being profitable to the sovereign. The expenses of that province, from 1,700,000 livres in the year 1749, rose higher and higher every year, and in 1759, the last year that it belonged to France, amounted to 26,000,000. These sums were not paid in hard money, but in paper cards of from 24 livres down to 7 livres 6 sous, bearing the arms of France, and signed by the governor, the intendant, and the comptroller, to the amount of about a million of livres; and also in ordonnances of from 1 to 100 livres, which were signed by the intendant only; and the amount of these was unlimited, perhaps unknown. Thus, in conducting this business, there were two most enormous blunders, to call them no worse. For some time these two kinds of paper currency answered all the purposes of real money in the country; and, as the holders got bills of exchange on the treasury of France for them every year in October, they were preferred in all transactions to real hard cash. The bills of exchange were regularly paid till the year 1754, when, on account of the prodigious increase of their amount, the payment was deferred; but in 1759 it was absolutely refused, till an inquiry should be made into the real value of them: for it is almost needless to say, that immediately after the first delay of the payment their value depreciated.

In the later end of the year 1763 an inquiry was instituted at Paris, and most scandalous malversations were discovered. Some of the defaulters, by a profuse distribution of their ill-gotten wealth, escaped punishment and restitution, while others were banished and compelled to refund large sums, which altogether amounted to 12,965,000 livres.

The bills of exchange were reduced to one half of their nominal value, and the ordonnances to one quarter: and both were paid in contracts, or tickets, bearing interest at four per cent, which were soon after sold at a very low price\*.

Of the Canada paper, which at the peace altogether amounted to 80 millions of livres, the Canadian French held 34 millions in ordonnances, and 7 millions in bills of exchange. As these people at the peace became British subjects, and as moreover a very large proportion of the paper had come into the hands of British merchants settled in Canada, and was remitted by them to their correspondents in London, the British government took an active concern in procuring payment of it.

\* Such was the low state of their credit in London, that a parcel of them, amounting to several hundred thousand livres, was sold at Garraway's in March 1765 at from 9 to 30 per cent.

By an arret of the French council of state, dated 29th December 1765, the interest was raised from 4 to 4½ per cent, and the holders of the bills were required to get them liquidated before the 1st of March 1766, on penalty of their becoming void; but the subjects of Great Britain, on account of the distance of Canada, were indulged with further time to the 1st of October 1766.

At last (March 29<sup>th</sup>) after long delays, a convention for the liquidation of the Canada paper belonging to British subjects was concluded at London between General Conway and the Comte de Guerchy, wherein the reduction of the value, and the rate of interest, as formerly settled by the court of France, were acquiesced in, and the necessary forms to be observed in ascertaining the British property, as also the steps to be taken for obtaining reconnoissances, or rent contracts, were settled. The court of France, moreover, stipulated to deliver to the British proprietors in April 1766, by the hands of the British ambassador at Paris, 500,000 livres in money, and 2,500,000 in rent contracts bearing interest from the 1st of January 1766, as an indemnification\*, on condition that all Canada paper of British property, not liquidated in the prescribed time, should share the same fate with that of French property.

To this convention Messieurs Brook Watson, Robert Allen, Francis Rybot, Robert Hunter, Isidore Lynch, Charles Crockat, William Greenwood, Robert Grant, and Daniel Vialars, who were the committee of London merchants chosen by the proprietors of Canada paper to manage their concerns, added, with the approbation of General Conway, several regulations for the distribution of the money, &c. which they appointed to be in November 1766†.

The islands of Grenada and the Grenadines being in a much more advanced state of cultivation, and much more populous than the other ceded islands, the legislature for them was completed by the election of a separate assembly for those islands only, who accordingly met for the first time on the 15th of April, and in an address to the king on the completion of the legislative system for Grenada expressed their sense of the important trust reposed in them; 'in conjunction with a governor, (General Melville) who has given constant and distinguished proofs, that his whole sentiments and conduct are formed for the prosperity and good of these islands, by views the most disinterested, and upon principles the most candid and impartial.' But, notwithstanding this harmonious outset, the new assembly, unfortunately conceiving too high an idea of their own powers and privileges, immediately went to variance

\* Raynal says, that the British proprietors thereby got 55 per cent for their bills of exchange, and 24 per cent for their ordonnances; while the French subjects were obliged to rest satisfied with the original composition of 50 and 25. But, as

he is mistaken in the amount of the indemnification, we may presume that he is erroneous in his calculation.

† The Canada bills were not finally paid off by the French treasury till the year 1772.

with the council, by which, and some unconstitutional proceedings, they compelled the governor to dissolve them on the 21st of May.

Dominica, St. Vincents, and Tobago, not being so well advanced in population and culture, retained still their original temporary form of government, administered by a lieutenant-governor and a council in each island, subordinate to the governor-general of Grenada and the other ceded islands.

If we turn our eyes to the continent of America, we there see much turbulence and confusion, the consequence of a general disposition to disown the supremacy of Great Britain. But the country felt little or no distress: the warehouses of the merchants were full of goods, for which no payment was made, and for which, considering the condition the country then was in with respect to money, from the suppression of those branches of trade, which used to supply the means of making remittances in cash or bills of exchange, very little payment could be made. It is true, that, when those goods were consumed, no more would come to replace them, at least not in the same channel of trade; but that was no great inconvenience in a country, which produces within itself every real necessary, with a large share of the comforts of life, and among a people, vying with each other, not in the ostentation of extravagance and the consumption of foreign vanities, but in the ostentation of parsimony and the pride of encouraging their own infant manufactures. But no petitions against the stamp act were forwarded this year from any of the continental colonies \* except Virginia and Georgia; the others having apparently determined to desist from such applications, in consequence of the ill success of their former ones.

In the meantime the effects of the American non-importation were sensibly felt in every part of Great Britain. The merchants connected with America found themselves unable to fulfill their engagements by the stoppage of the payment of several millions due to them from their American correspondents; the whole system of their business was deranged, and general distress was diffused throughout the wide-spreading circle of their connections; the manufacturers suffered by the want of regular payments from the merchants, and moreover found their materials and made-up goods in a great measure become a dead stock upon their hands; in consequence of which great numbers of their workmen and other dependents were reduced to idleness and want of bread, at a time, when, to heighten the distress, provisions were extravagantly dear. Petitions were presented from London, Liverpool, Bristol, Lancaster, Hull, Glasgow, and, in a word, from all the trading and manufacturing towns, wherein were displayed in the strongest colours the advantages derived from the trade with America in the vast, and increasing consump-

\* That is to say, in their corporate capacity: also sent home from Jamaica (and, I believe, from but a memorial, or petition, was sent home signed no other of the West-India islands) against the by 280 merchants of Philadelphia. A petition was stamp act.

tion of British manufactures, and also of foreign goods shipped for America, which were paid for with British or American goods; the valuable nature of the returns received from America, being mostly either the materials of our manufactures or of a profitable re-exportation; besides which we annually received large balances in bullion or bills of exchange, which were in fact the profits made by the colonists in their trade with other countries, poured into the general mass of British wealth: and it was observed that many thousands of manufacturers, labourers, and seamen, employed in the various operations of that extensive commerce, must now be thrown destitute, or driven into the service of other nations. But these compositions, as we may well suppose, were not free of exaggeration\*.

The arguments urged in parliament, and in innumerable publications, for and against the right and expediency of Great Britain imposing taxes upon America, are foreign to the nature of this work. It is sufficient here to say, that the wisdom of the legislature saw the propriety of repealing the stamp act. The act for its repeal [6 *Geo. III, c. 11*] was passed on the 18th of March, on which occasion the ships in the River Thames, the coffee-houses frequented by the American merchants, and also many private houses, exhibited the usual demonstrations of public rejoicing†.

But this gracious and healing act was immediately followed by one, which in the preamble reflects on the American provincial legislatures for assuming, against law, the exclusive right of imposing taxes upon his Majesty's subjects in the colonies, and declares the American colonies subordinate to, and dependent upon, the crown and parliament of Great Britain, whose legislative authority is expressly asserted to extend to, and bind, the people of the American colonies, as subjects, in all cases whatsoever. [6 *Geo. III, c. 12.*]

Some doubts in an act of last session [*c. 43.*] for regulating the duties on Russia linens imported, were removed by a new act for regulating the duties. Doubts having also arisen concerning the right of importing tea by any other than the East-India company's ships, it was by the same act declared, that licences might be granted to import limited quantities from any part of Europe. [6 *Geo. III, c. 13.*]

April 11<sup>th</sup>—The duties laid on foreign cyder and perry imported (by act 3 *Geo. III, c. 12*) were raised to £3 per tun, and those on the same articles

\* That the American non-importation agreements had not the smallest effect upon the woollen manufactures of York-shire, will appear from a view of the progress of it, to be given in the year 1783.

† When the news of the repeal reached America, it was, notwithstanding the disagreeable nature of the concomitant act, [*c. 12*] received with universal demonstrations of joy. Subscriptions were made for erecting statues to Mr. Pitt, who had

exerted himself for the repeal, and resolutions were made to prepare new dresses made of British manufactures for celebrating the fourth of June, the birth-day of their most gracious sovereign, and to give their home-spun clothes to the poor. These are proofs, that the spirit of disaffection to the British government, though it had taken root, had not yet acquired any confirmed strength among the generality of the people of America.



of home manufacture to 6s per hoghead, to be paid by the retailers, and 16/8 per hoghead to be paid by factors, to whom cyder or perry is consigned for sale. [6 Geo. III, c. 14.] As the duties on these liquors, were no longer payable in the first instance by the makers and consumers, the unwelcome visits of the revenue officers in private houses became unnecessary, and the most obnoxious circumstances in the former mode of collecting the duties were now removed, to the great satisfaction of the inhabitants of the cyder counties.

The importation of foreign-made gloves and mitts was totally prohibited. [6 Geo. III, c. 19.]

In the year 1764 Commodore Byron failed to take possession of Falkland's islands near the southern extremity of America, which had been strongly recommended by Lord Anson, as a station for promoting hostile and predatory expeditions against the Spanish settlements in South-America. Thence he proceeded on a circumnavigation of the globe, in the course of which he discovered several islands in the Pacific ocean, some of which appear to have been seen by former navigators, and which we were more fully made acquainted with by the visits of Cook, and other succeeding navigators. He arrived in England 9th May 1766.

Soon after Commodore Byron's return, Captain Wallis and Captain Carteret were dispatched on a similar voyage round the globe. They made some additions to our geographical knowledge by giving the position of many islands, hitherto unknown, or misplaced. Having been separated at the entrance of the Pacific ocean, Wallis returned to England in May 1768, and Carteret in March 1769.

About this time the bank of Venice reduced the interest of their funds to four per cent, at the same time offering payment of their principal to those who were unwilling to accept that rate of interest.

May 14<sup>th</sup>—To prevent unfair preferences in dispatching the coal ships at Newcastle and Sunderland, the agents or venders of coals in those towns were by law obliged to load all ships in rotation, on payment being tendered to them, either in cash, or bank post-bills payable in seven days after sight. [6 Geo. III, c. 22.]

An act was passed for further regulating the manufacture of woollen cloths in the westriding of York-shire, and preserving their credit in foreign parts. [6 Geo III, c. 23.]

And another for paying, lighting, and otherways improving, the burgh of Southwark. [6 Geo. III, c. 24.]

Also another to oblige apprentices to serve out their time, and to compell artificers and workmen to fulfill the contracts entered into with their employers for the time agreed upon. [6 Geo. III, c. 25.]

Three acts were passed for improving the streets of London, regulating buildings, &c. [6 Geo. III, cc. 26, 27, 37.]

The importation and sale of foreign-made silks and velvets was totally prohibited; excepting those imported from India, and silk crapes and



tiffanies from Italy. At the same time breaking into any house or shop maliciously to destroy or damage any silk goods in the process of the manufacture, was declared felony, and punishable with death. [6 Geo. III, c. 28.]

In order to preserve the credit of the stocking manufacture, all persons found guilty of marking an untrue number of threads were subjected to the loss of the goods falsely marked, with a penalty of five pounds for every piece. [6 Geo. III, c. 29.]

The sandy point called the Spurn at the mouth of the Humber, on which two light-houses had been built in the reign of Charles II, having by the action of the sea so far changed its form, that the light-houses were now a considerable way from the point, it became necessary to remove them to the present point; for which purpose one of the proprietors (the others being unwilling to engage in it) was empowered to borrow money to carry on the work, which is so essential to the preservation of vessels passing along that dangerous coast. [6 Geo. III, c. 31.]

The city of Bristol, though one of the principal commercial ports in Britain, was incommoded by several very inconvenient narrow streets and passages, which the corporation were now empowered to widen and improve; and also to remove all projecting signs, sheds, spouts, and other nuisances, in the streets. [6 Geo. III, c. 34.]

Some further regulations were enacted for the amendment and preservation of the public roads. [6 Geo. III, c. 43.]

In order to support and encourage the national commerce, several laws, now almost expired, were prolonged, viz. for the drawback on the exportation of foreign copper bars; for the encouragement of the silk manufactures; for taking off several duties on goods exported; for reducing the duties on beaver skins, and on several spices, imported; for the importation of all furs, the produce of the British plantations, into Great Britain only; for the preservation of his Majesty's woods in America, and for encouraging the importation of naval stores from America, and of masts, yards, and bowsprits, from Scotland; for encouraging the growth of coffee in the British colonies; and for encouraging the manufacture of British sail-cloth: all extended to the 24th of June 1774. [6 Geo. III, c. 44.]

To encourage the manufacture of cordage made of British or foreign rough hemp, except that of the American colonies, a bounty of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  was allowed for every hundred-weight (112 pounds) of such cordage exported as merchandize to any place beyond the seas, except the isle of Mann: and the drawback hitherto given on exportation of foreign rough hemp was no longer allowed. [6 Geo. III, c. 45.]

For the encouragement of the silk manufactures an additional duty of  $17\frac{1}{6}$  for every pound-weight (16 ounces) was laid on the crapes and tiffanies of Italy, half of which to be drawn back on exportation. For

the benefit of the linen manufacture in Ireland a quantity of gum senega or gum arabic, not exceeding 30 tuns annually of both together, was allowed to be carried to Ireland free of duty. Permission was also given to import from Mann in British ships a quantity of bugles, not exceeding 25,000 pounds, which had been in that island before the 1st of March 1765. The carriage of rum and other spirits, hitherto confined to vessels of 100 tuns or upwards, was now allowed to vessels not under 70 tuns. [6 *Geo. III*, c. 46.]

An additional duty of sixpence upon every gallon of single brandy or other spirits, and of one shilling upon every gallon of double brandy or other spirits, not produced in the British colonies, was enacted to be paid on importation. And the space of six months, hitherto allowed to the importers to warehouse their rum or spirits produced in the British colonies before paying the excise duties, was now enlarged to twelve months. [6 *Geo. III*, c. 48.]

In order to encourage the freedom of importation and exportation, under certain limitations, for the advantage of the manufactures, commerce, and navigation, of Great Britain, it was thought proper to open free ports in some of our West-India islands. It was therefor enacted, that after the 1st of November 1766 live cattle and all other produce of foreign colonies in America, except tobacco, might be imported into Prince Rupert's bay and Roseau in Dominica in foreign vessels not having more than one deck. The ports of Kingston, Savanna-lamar, Montego-bay, and Lucea, in Jamaica were to be opened at the same time for the importation, also in single-decked vessels, of cattle, and foreign provincial produce, except sugar, coffee, pimento, ginger, melasses, and tobacco. But all foreign manufactures were prohibited on pain of forfeiting vessel and cargo. Copper ore, cotton, ginger, dying woods, hemp, indigo, melasses, beaver skins, and skins and furs in general, sugar, cacao, coffee, pimento, ashes, raw silk, and whale fins, from the British colonies were also prohibited. It was moreover declared lawful for foreign single-decked vessels to carry from the free ports negroes imported in British ships, and all goods lawfully imported from Great Britain, Ireland, and the British colonies; except spars, pitch, tar, turpentine, tobacco, and British-American iron. The rest of the act contains regulations for carrying foreign produce to Europe, and the duties on negroes and other merchandize to be paid in the free ports. [6 *Geo. III*, c. 49.]

This law appears to have been chiefly intended to encourage the Spaniards to resort to the British free ports now to be opened; as it was supposed, that they would prefer ports, where a free entry was assured to them, to those where they must depend on precarious indulgence or connivance, and be liable to seizure at the caprice of an officer. The event of these arrangements will appear in the transactions of the year 1773.

Persons, who had incurred penalties inflicted by the stamp act, were indemnified; and all deeds, &c. upon unstamped paper, which by that act ought to have been on stamped paper, were declared valid. [6 *Geo. III, c. 50.*]

Instead of the duties formerly paid on goods imported into the British continental colonies, the following were now to be levied, viz.

|   |   |   |   |                 |
|---|---|---|---|-----------------|
| On melasses and syrups *, per gallon, wine measure, | £ | 0 | 0 | 1               |
| Coffee of the British plantations, per cwt.         | - | 0 | 7 | 0               |
| Pimento of ditto, per pound,                        | - | 0 | 0 | 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Foreign cambrics and lawns, per piece of 13 ells,   | - | 0 | 3 | 0               |

British coffee and pimento, imported into North-America, and immediately warehoused for exportation within twelve months to Great Britain or a British colony, were exempted from paying any duty. The same indulgence was extended to foreign sugars, coffee, and indigo, with the further liberty of carrying the sugar to any part of Europe south of Cape Finisterre.—Foreign cotton and indigo were allowed to be carried to the British West-India islands in vessels navigated according to law, free of any duty: and cotton might also be brought in British vessels from any place whatsoever free of duty †. By this act all sugars brought to Britain from the northern colonies were reputed as French, and charged with duties accordingly. [6 *Geo. III, c. 52.*]

In the same session of parliament many acts were passed for improving harbours, making canals (the chief of which will be noticed at the times when they were completed and rendered useful to the commerce of the country) widening and improving roads, and dividing commons.

Although the axe of destruction seemed to be laid to the root of the fishery of Scotland by the failure of the payment of the bounty in the month of January, some branches of it were this year prosecuted with considerable spirit and success. On the west side of the country some fishing banks, formerly unknown, or forgotten for ages, were discovered, where cod were found in sufficient plenty to load all the Newfoundland fleet. In the neighbourhood of the Orkney and Shetland islands new banks of cod and ling were also discovered. And on both sides of the country the people were now greatly improved in the art of curing the fish. What a dreadful misfortune to the public, as well as to the people more immediately concerned, that their career should be arrested, when they had just attained to a degree of perfection in a business so eminently capable of augmenting the wealth, and supporting the maritime power, of the British empire.

\* When the duty on melasses imported into America was sixpence a gallon, it produced £2,000 a year. By lowering it to one penny, the amount was raised to £17,000. [Lord Sheffield's *Observations on the commerce of America*, p. 126, sixth ed.] It is probable, that the quantity imported was little, if at all, increased; and thence we may

see the bad policy of encouraging smuggling by high duties. It is certain that a great part even of the low duty was evaded.

† The wise policy of encouraging manufactures by freeing the materials of them from all restraints and burthens is better understood now than it was in former ages.

June 20<sup>th</sup>—A treaty of navigation and commerce was concluded with Russia, the substance of which is as follows.

Art. II) The subjects of both powers have mutual liberty of navigation and commerce in all parts of each-other's dominions in Europe, where any other nation has, or shall hereafter have, such liberty of navigation and commerce.

III) Ships, boats, and carriages, have perfect freedom in arriving, repairing, and departing, in all places where the subjects of other nations are admitted ; no restraint shall be put upon the crews of either ; and all deserters shall be restored. There shall be perfect freedom in purchasing goods at the current prices, the parties conforming to the laws of the country they are in.

IV) The merchants of Great Britain have liberty to carry by water or by land into every province of Russia, wherein strangers are permitted to trade, all kinds of merchandize not particularly prohibited. And the merchants of Russia may also freely carry to all parts of Great Britain, which are open to foreigners, all kinds of goods not particularly prohibited ; and they may buy and export all kinds of goods, which any other strangers may export, and particularly wrought and unwrought gold and silver, except the current coin of Great Britain. In order to preserve a just equality with regard to the exportation of provisions and other commodities, it is stipulated, that the subjects of Russia shall pay the same duties on exportation, that are paid by the British merchants on exporting the same effects from the ports of Russia. The commerce of the interior parts of each country shall be regulated by its own laws. The Russian merchants shall enjoy the same privileges as the British merchants of the Russian company enjoy. There shall be perfect freedom on both sides in disposing of merchandize, whether the produce of the country or imported, the sellers conforming in all things to the laws of the country they are in. Any disputes in which British subjects are concerned at Petersburg shall be submitted to the college of commerce, and in other towns to the tribunals which have cognizance of commercial affairs.

V) British subjects, if not provided with rix-dollars, may pay their duties in other foreign coin or the current coin of Russia, the rix-dollar being valued at one hundred and twenty-five copecs.

VI) Ships shall be loaded and unloaded with all possible dispatch. British subjects, having contracted with any chancery or college to deliver goods, and giving notice that they are ready for delivery agreeable to the time specified in the contract, they shall immediately be received and settled for according to the terms of the agreement. And the same conduct shall be observed towards the Russian merchants in the British dominions.

VII) Goods bought in either country by the subjects of the other shall

be paid for in the current coin of the country, unless otherways settled in the agreement.

8) The subjects of either power have permission to load their ships and carriages in all the usual ports of embarkation with the commodities they have purchased, on paying the customs, and conforming to the laws.

9) The merchants shall pay no higher duties on either side on the importation or exportation of their commodities, than are paid by the subjects of other nations. Goods clandestinely imported into either country shall be confiscated; but no other punishment shall be inflicted on the importer.

10) The subjects of either power may freely trade with states which are at war with the other, provided they do not carry military stores. Places actually blocked up or besieged, by sea or land, are excepted from this permission.

11) Cannon, mortars, muskets, pistols, bombs, grenades, balls, flints, matches, powder, saltpetre, sulphur, breast-plates, pikes, swords, belts, cartouch-bags, saddles and bridles, are declared to be military stores, and if found in quantities beyond what is necessary for the service of the ship and people onboard her, shall be seized as contraband: but neither the ship, the people, nor the other goods found onboard shall be detained.

12) In case of war between Great Britain and Russia, the persons, ships, and goods, of the subjects of either power shall be perfectly at liberty for the space of one year, and at their departure shall have power to appoint attornies to sell their goods and collect their debts, which the debtors shall be obliged to pay.

13) Every assistance shall be given to the unhappy sufferers by shipwreck; and all their goods, which can be found, shall be restored to them, they paying a moderate salvage for the assistance given them.

14) British merchants may build, buy, sell, or hire, houses in any part of Russia (excepting some towns which have particular rights of burghership): and the houses belonging to, and inhabited by, British merchants in Petersburg, Moscow, and Archangel, shall be exempted from quartering soldiers, but not in other towns. They shall have the free exercise of their religion, and shall have power to dispose of their estates, or to leave them by will according to the customs and laws of their own country. All these privileges shall be enjoyed in an equal degree by the subjects of Russia in Great Britain and Ireland.

15) British subjects, proposing to quit the dominions of Russia, shall give two months notice to the college of commerce, who shall at the expiration of the time grant passports without requiring any further security. The same easy accommodation shall be granted to Russian merchants in the British dominions.

16) In hiring domestics the subjects of either power must conform to the laws of the country in which they are.

17) In law proceedings the British merchants shall be amenable only to the college of commerce, or, in places at a distance from it, to the magistrates of the towns, with a right of appeal from them to the college of commerce. The Russian merchants in the British dominions shall have the same protection and justice which the laws grant to foreign merchants of the most favoured nations.

18) The merchants of either country shall not be obliged to show their books or papers, unless for the sake of proof in the course of justice: and their books and papers shall upon no account whatever be seized. Bankrupts are to be treated according to the laws of the place. An arrest may be laid on the effects of a debtor refusing to pay, equivalent to the value of the debt, and, for want of sufficient effects, on the person of the debtor; and delegates appointed by the creditors shall distribute the effects among them with all possible dispatch. The same procedure shall be observed towards the Russian merchants in the dominions of Great Britain.

19) ' In case of complaints and law suits, three persons of fair and unblemished character among the foreign merchants shall, with a proper regard to circumstances, be named by the college of commerce, and where there is no such college, by the magistrate, to examine the books and papers of the parties; and the report they shall make to the college of commerce, or to the magistrate, of what they shall find in the said books or papers, shall be held a good proof.'

20) The acts of the clerks or servants of merchants, having power from them, shall be binding upon them at the custom-house. Russian servants employed in shops shall be registered, and bargains made by them shall bind their masters.

21) Russian merchants removing to distant provinces shall still be liable to be sued by their British creditors before the college of commerce, who, after seeing proof of the debt, shall cite them thrice; and if they do not appear in a sufficient time, the college shall give judgment, which shall be forwarded to the governor of the province to which the debtor has removed, and by him be put in execution.

22) Brokers shall be obliged to make good all losses occasioned by deficient quality or fraudulent package of the goods passing through their hands; and they shall receive a fair brokerage.

23) A regulation shall be made to prevent abuses in the package of leather, hemp, and flax: and if any disputes arise, they shall be determined by the commissioners of the customs.

24) For the encouragement of the trade of Great Britain, it is agreed, that English woollen cloths shall pay no higher duties than the following, viz. cloth for the soldiers and coarse York-shire cloth (called in the



Russian tariff costroy) to pay (in rix-dollars) two copecs for every arsheen : broad flannels one copec, and narrow flannels three fourths of a copec, the arsheen \*. And in general the British subjects are to be considered and treated as the most favoured nation.

This treaty was signed at Petersburg by Sir George Macartney (now Earl Macartney) and by four Russian noblemen on the 20th of June 1766.

June—The king of Naples having ordered his revenue officers to make a strict examination of all single-decked vessels arriving in his ports, the English merchants settled in that kingdom immediately remonstrated, that such a proceeding would be a direct violation of the 10th article of the treaty of Madrid in the year 1667, which is the basis of our trade with that country; wherein it was expressly stipulated, that no British vessels, navigating within the states of the king of Spain or in any of his ports, should be liable to be visited by the judges of the contraband, or by any other person under their, or any other, authority.

The British consul and factory at Leghorn sent home a memorial, stating the prodigious hardship their trade was subjected to in expenses, damage of goods, delay, disappointment, &c. from their ships being obliged to perform quarantine on their arrival in Great Britain. They insisted, that Leghorn is the port of all others in the Mediterranean, where the most strict and judicious precautions are used to guard against infection, and consequently, that to put a restraint upon their trade, from which the trade of other ports, more liable to infection, is exempted, cannot be consistent with equity and commercial policy.

✓ The young settlement on the Musquito shore was in danger of being ruined in consequence of the encouragement held out to the negroes by the priests of the neighbouring Spanish province to desert from the plantations: and it was pretended, that the civil power could not interfere, as they were under the protection of the church. ~

In the year 1756 Messieurs Gordons at Leith began a manufacture of dye-stuff from cutbear, a kind of moss growing upon the rocks in the Highlands †, which answered the purposes of orchil, a foreign production that used to be imported at a very great expense. A manufacture of the same nature was now set up in London, the proprietors of which engaged people to collect the material among the mountains of Lochaber. In process of time it became scarce; and then it was brought from Norway and Sweden, for Messieurs Gordons, for the manufacturers in London, and afterwards for a manufactory of it established at Glasgow in the year 1777.

\* So early as the year 1767, this article was violated by the Russian government in a tariff imposing higher duties on woollen goods.

† Martin in his *Description of the Western islands* [p. 135] describes *carbir* as a scurf upon the

stones on the coast and on the hills, which, when ground to powder and steeped in urine, dyes a pretty crimson colour. It is apparently the same, which is now called *cutbear*, which, I find, is also prepared with urine.

May 13<sup>th</sup>—A reward of £700 was given by the parliament of Ireland to Messieurs Holt and Warring for the discovery of a method of tanning leather with heath boiled in a copper vessel and applied to the leather blood-hot. What a field of enterprise and industry for the wildest parts of Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland!

August—With a view of securing to Britain the possession of Turk's islands, which the French had some time ago made an attempt upon, by the title of occupation, the king appointed Mr. Andrew Symmer to be his agent in them, and to regulate their trade, which had hitherto consisted of nothing but salt.

The corporation of Liverpool, in the true spirit of a commercial community, erected an observatory, to be furnished with nautical instruments proper for the instruction of young navigators.

The East-India company thought themselves warranted by the splendid acquisitions made for them by Lord Clive to raise their next dividend from *three* to *five* per cent for the half year.

September—In consequence of petitions and addresses from the principal cities and several other parts of the kingdom, setting forth the general distress occasioned by the enormous price of bread, the king issued three several proclamations, before the meeting of parliament, for enforcing the laws of Edward VI and Elizabeth against forestallers and engrossers, for laying an embargo on all vessels loaded with wheat or flour in any of the ports of Great Britain, and for prohibiting distillation from wheat or wheat flour for a limited time. And by another proclamation, issued the day after the meeting of parliament, the embargo was prolonged, and extended to vessels having onboard barley or malt.

The high prices had provoked the populace to rise in many places, who in their heedless fury committed many atrocities tending to increase the evil they complained of. With all the outcry the price of the finest quartern loaf was only eightpence on the 27th of October\*.

The method taken by government to encourage the cultivation of silk in Georgia was to take the cocoons off the hands of the breeders at the fixed price of 3s a pound, of which price at least three fourths were in reality bounty: and government employed Mr. Otolenghi, a native of Piedmont, to bring the silk to a merchantable state, and to give the settlers the necessary instructions for managing the worms and the silk. But it being now thought proper to reduce the price to 1s/6, the planters of any property, who made rice and indigo their principal objects, no longer paid any attention to it, the breeding of silk-worms was abandoned to the very poorest of the people, and consequently it never arose to be an object of any consequence. The produce this year amounted only to 20,350 pounds of cocoons, raised by 264 per-

\* In the year 1795, the quartern loaf was at 1s/3, and there were no riots. What a strong demonstration of the fall in the value of money in less than thirty years!

sons; from which were made 1084 pounds of silk, and about 1000 pounds of filozel and trash.

Notwithstanding the failure of this article, of which the most sanguine hopes had been entertained, the province of Georgia was beginning to flourish. Hitherto its trade had been subjected to much inconvenience by the want of a direct intercourse with Great Britain: but now there were three ships, five snows and brigs, and six schooners and sloops, belonging to the inhabitants of the province; and there were four constant ships fixed in the London trade, besides others freighted occasionally.

The value of the trade of the province from October 1765 to October 1766, was as follows.

| Imports               |          | Exports               |         |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------|---------|
| From Great Britain    | £83,000  | To Europe - -         | £55,247 |
| the West-Indies       | 26,242   | the West-Indies -     | 24,481  |
| the northern colonies | 12,017   | the northern colonies | 5,074   |
| Africa in negroes     | 14,820   |                       |         |
|                       |          |                       | £84,802 |
|                       |          | Remitted in bills     |         |
|                       |          | To Great Britain -    | 7,500   |
|                       |          | the northern colonies | 2,000   |
|                       | £136,079 |                       | £94,302 |

It must be observed, however, that there was not in fact any balance remaining due to the northern colonists, who gave no credit, but made a point of carrying off the proceeds of their cargoes in produce, bills, gold, or silver.

The exports consisted of 12,474 barrels of rice, 38,660 pounds of indigo, 235,600 pounds of deer skins, 2,674,355 feet of lumber, 3,040,517 shingles, 829,410 staves, 25,600 pounds of leather, 1,281 barrels of pitch and tar, 400 bushels of Indian corn, 88 steers, 42 horses, 290 hogs, and sundry small articles; and besides all these, the annual produce of silk shipped for account of government. The deer skins and leather were purchased from the Indians, and all the other articles were procured by the industry of the settlers.

The number of white people of all sorts in the province was about 10,000, and of the negroes at least 7,800.

The following is an account of the skins, or furs, exported from the province of Quebec in the undermentioned years.

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 1764 | 106,035 skins *, besides 58 casks, 207 bales, and 1 trunk, whereof the contents are not ascertained. |
| 1765 | 275,206.   |
| 1766 | 346,794.   |

\* 'The returns from the officers at Quebec do not distinguish the species of furs, but enter them under one head of *peltries skins*.'

The price of corn being still very high, the acts prohibiting the exportation, and those allowing the free importation, of it for a limited time were prolonged, as well as the, lately annual, act for the importation of salted provisions from Ireland. [7 *Geo. III*, cc. 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 11, 22.]

According to the Abbé Raynal, the quantity of tea imported from China in the course of this year, was as follows :

|                 |   |                   |
|-----------------|---|-------------------|
| By the English, | - | 6,000,000 pounds. |
| the Dutch,      | - | 4,500,000         |
| the Swedes,     | - | 2,400,000         |
| the Danes,      | - | 2,400,000         |
| the French,     | - | 2,100,000         |
|                 |   | <hr/>             |
|                 |   | 17,400,000        |

and he estimates, from observations and calculations made with all possible exactness during several years, and from the preference given by most nations to chocolate, coffee, &c. that the consumption of tea in the continent of Europe was not more than 5,400,000 pounds, and that 6,000,000 pounds must have found their way into Great Britain, and been consumed there in addition to the 6,000,000 imported by the East-India company. [*Hist. phil. et polit. V. ii, p. 138, ed. 1782.*]

There were stamped for sale in Scotland this year 12,746,659 yards of linen, the value of which was £597,227:11:0.

There arrived this year at Petersburg 413 vessels, whereof 167 were British, 68 Dutch, 1 French, and the rest Russian, Swedish, Danish, and German. The value of their cargoes, as rated in the custom-house books, was 5,288,471 rubles. And there sailed 159 British vessels from Petersburg, of which there were 71 for London, 52 for the other ports of England, 18 for Scotland, 6 for Ireland, 2 for Guernsey and Jersey, 1 for Boston in New-England, and the other 9 for ports on the continent of Europe. Their cargoes were valued at 3,270,000 rubles. Of other nations there sailed 265 vessels for foreign ports, carrying cargoes valued at 2,510,000 rubles. Thus greatly above a half in value, and probably also in bulk, of the commerce of Petersburg was in the hands of British merchants, and *carried by* British vessels.

The same observation holds good with respect to the hemp shipped this year at Narva, of which  $\frac{1}{2}\frac{3}{5}$  were brought to Britain.

The Swedish East-India company, originally established in the year 1731, and whose privileges were renewed in 1746, were now again chartered for twenty years more. Their ships are mostly sent to China, where their purchases are made almost entirely with silver, which they procure at Cadiz. Four fifths of the value of their imports have been tea, whereof but a small proportion has been consumed in their own country, and the greatest part, there is reason to believe, was clan-

definitely imported into Great Britain, before the commutation duty entirely put an end to that principal branch of the smuggling trade.

There belonged this year to all the ports  
 of England 7,412 vessels of the reputed burthen of 561,982 tons.  
 and of Scotland 1,295 - - - - 73,293

Total 8,707 - - - - 635,275

The net amount of the customs, including the West-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the course of this year, was,  
 from the custom-house in London, - £2,437,280 15 10  
 and from the custom-house in Edinburgh, - 11,000 0 0

Total net revenue of the customs of Great Britain, £2,448,280 15 10

There were coined at the mint in the course of the year  
 17,565 pounds of gold, value - - - - £820,724 12 6  
 and 96 pounds of silver, - - - - 297 12 0  
 £821,022 4 6

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Christmas 1765 to Christmas 1766, was as follows.

| Countries, &c.           | Imported into |              | Exported from  |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
|                          | ENGLAND.      | SCOTLAND.    | ENGLAND.       | SCOTLAND.     |
| Africa - - -             | £52,217 3 11  |              | £496,789 12 0  | £4,088 14 9   |
| Canaries - - -           | 10,378 12 6   | £2,620 4 6   | 47,472 13 10   | 437 5 9       |
| Denmark and Norway - - - | 93,473 0 1    | 30,390 5 4   | 157,061 0 10   | 22,939 7 3    |
| East Country - - -       | 152,884 16 7  |              | 171,869 18 0   |               |
| East-India - - -         | 1,975,981 7 9 |              | 783,961 17 10  |               |
| Flanders - - -           | 125,211 8 5   | 1,702 17 6   | 433,553 12 7   | 30,367 11 10  |
| France - - -             | 81,470 13 9   | 2,451 5 6    | 201,032 6 10   | 229,496 11 10 |
| Germany - - -            | 633,672 17 11 | 10,049 8 0   | 1,811,268 2 3  | 67,095 5 1    |
| Greenland - - -          | 9,625 5 4     | 1,485 5 10   | 33 0 0         |               |
| Holland - - -            | 374,587 0 1   | 123,786 12 0 | 1,602,924 6 7  | 313,921 15 7  |
| Iceland - - -            |               |              |                | 206 15 0      |
| Ireland - - -            | 1,154,982 4 7 | 95,453 12 1  | 1,920,015 19 6 | 228,761 9 10  |
| Mann - - -               |               | 152 10 0     |                | 185 10 10     |
| Italy - - -              | 812,179 4 0   | 1,509 5 3    | 839,838 7 7    | 7,865 9 2     |
| Madeira - - -            | 6,988 17 8    | 33 6 8       | 36,260 10 0    | 1,863 14 6    |
| Poland - - -             |               | 8,878 5 3    |                | 1,142 13 9    |
| Portugal - - -           | 347,806 2 2   | 14,179 0 2   | 667,104 7 8    | 695 4 6       |
| Prussia - - -            |               | 11,274 13 7  |                |               |
| Russia - - -             | 684,585 16 5  | 99,752 15 1  | 109,900 16 10  | 510 15 4      |
| Spain - - -              | 558,002 12 7  | 6,876 13 7   | 1,078,731 10 1 | 4,319 2 5     |
| Straits - - -            | 14,103 13 10  |              | 59,678 19 1    |               |
| Sweden - - -             | 195,449 5 9   | 27,892 19 1  | 47,493 13 1    | 3,519 10 4    |
| Turkey - - -             | 106,522 7 9   |              | 100,796 4 4    |               |
| Venice - - -             | 63,105 7 9    |              | 42,643 10 0    |               |
| Sardinia - - -           |               | 73 1 8       |                |               |
| Guernsey, &c. - - -      | 34,858 6 5    | 3,121 6 3    | 65,564 9 6     | 10,487 9 4    |
| Hudson's bay - - -       | 10,199 17 6   |              | 4,631 6 3      |               |
| Newfoundland - - -       | 45,207 15 6   |              | 65,779 10 9    | 1,356 3 11    |

| Countries, &c.                       | Imported into    |              | Exported from   |                |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
|                                      | ENGLAND.         | SCOTLAND.    | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.      |
| St. John's Island -                  |                  |              | £560 19 2       |                |
| Quebec - - -                         | £46,982 12 3     | £700 4 9     | 366,573 4 11    | £5,417 15 8    |
| Nova-Scotia - - -                    | 1,433 9 4        |              | 14,181 6 5      |                |
| New-England - - -                    | 141,733 4 11     | 15,809 5 7   | 409,642 7 6     | 9,773 6 1      |
| New-York - - -                       | 67,020 11 8      | 315 2 8      | 330,829 15 8    | 2,088 11 5     |
| Pennsylvania - - -                   | 26,851 3 1       | 1,292 4 2    | 327,314 5 3     | 6,854 7 4      |
| Maryland - - -                       | 461,693 9 4      | 78,859 5 10  | 372,548 16 1    | 37,789 19 7    |
| Virginia - - -                       |                  | 255,480 19 7 |                 | 109,390 12 3   |
| North Carolina - -                   | 293,587 7 8      | 12,466 19 10 | 296,732 1 4     | 7,063 3 2      |
| South Carolina - -                   |                  | 13,918 14 10 |                 | 4,707 11 10    |
| Georgia - - -                        | 53,074 16 7      |              | 67,268 5 5      |                |
| Florida - - -                        | 2,113 7 7        |              | 38,718 14 10    |                |
| Antigua - - -                        | 396,465 12 3     | 60,300 19 8  | 142,326 16 7    | 8,967 14 11    |
| Anguilla - - -                       | 3,225 19 11      |              |                 |                |
| Barbados - - -                       | 296,732 16 7     | 26,666 2 4   | 194,042 7 1     | 3,705 4 7      |
| Bermuda - - -                        | 3,475 14 1       |              | 11,299 6 3      |                |
| Dominica - - -                       | 111,649 5 9      |              | 20,792 6 0      |                |
| Grenada - - -                        | 264,194 5 7      | 3,016 5 1    | 89,431 1 9      | 2,508 15 9     |
| Jamaica - - -                        | 1,201,801 16 4   | 49,057 1 9   | 415,544 17 4    | 21,490 19 1    |
| Montserrat - - -                     | 71,762 2 4       | 2,737 18 6   | 26,826 1 10     |                |
| Nevis - - -                          | 74,200 16 0      |              | 18,989 8 0      |                |
| New-Providence - -                   | 4,585 9 5        |              | 15,085 13 9     |                |
| St. Christophers - -                 | 304,778 9 2      | 13,285 0 3   | 91,736 17 6     | 8,686 15 2     |
| St. Vincents - - -                   | 31,028 1 7       |              | 5,325 6 7       |                |
| Tobago - - -                         |                  |              | 13 2 6          |                |
| Tortola - - -                        | 48,280 5 8       |              | 18,218 0 7      |                |
| St. Croix - - -                      | 11,807 3 7       |              | 1,425 7 0       |                |
| Martinique - - -                     | 13 15 0          |              |                 |                |
| St. Lucia - - -                      | 581 5 0          |              |                 |                |
| St. Eustathius - - -                 | 96 1 6           |              |                 |                |
| Havanna - - -                        | 1,511 3 3        |              |                 |                |
| Spanish West-Indies in general - - - | 11,601 2 6       |              | 3,555 1 11      |                |
| West-Indies in general               |                  |              | 1,673 11 0      |                |
| Imp. and exp. of England             | 11,475,775 5 8   |              | 14,024,964 2 8  |                |
| Imp. and exp. of Scotland            | 980,989 12 2     | 980,989 12 2 | 1,163,704 7 10  | 1,163,704 7 10 |
| Total, Great Britain -               | 12,456,764 17 10 |              | 15,188,668 10 6 |                |

1767—In the beginning of January the new British colony of Grenada was threatened with total destruction by a formidable insurrection of the negroes; and chiefly those belonging to the old French inhabitants. An armed force was immediately dispatched into the woods and mountains, to which they had withdrawn. But the operation of it was in a great measure rendered unnecessary by the prudence and humanity of General Melville, the governor-general of the ceded islands, who, without bloodshed or public expense, but merely by the popularity he had acquired among the negroes from their confidence in his humanity and justice, easily persuaded them to accept the pardon he offered them, and to return to their work \*. General Melville's atten-

\* Upon this occasion Charles Augustine, a creole negro, who for his superior talents was, by the free election of his associates, raised to the pre-

eminence of being their chief, or ringleader, exerted his influence to bring about an harmonious accommodation, and was in return rewarded with his



tion to the prosperity of the island was on this occasion further directed to the prevention of any alarm at home, whereby most of the planters, who in the infancy of their settlements were largely indebted to the merchants of London, would have been in danger of being ruined. This he effected by advising the publisher of the newspaper to forbear from mentioning the insurrection, till he could at once relate the beginning and the termination of it, which he was happily enabled to do in his next paper: and thereby those, who were concerned in the prosperity of the island, were prevented from ever feeling the smallest uneasiness upon that account\*.

March—The British merchants settled in, or trading to, Portugal complained, that for some years past their trade had been exposed to great and unusual difficulties. The privileges and jurisdiction of their judge-conservator, established by antient decrees of the kings of Portugal, and confirmed by the treaty of 1654, were trampled upon. The persons, properties, and books, of the merchants were seized, their houses and warehouses broken open, and forcibly entered, without any proper warrant; and their debtors were protected from law suits. A company established on pretence of improving the wines of the district of Alto Douro possessed the power of appretiating every vintager's wine at their own pleasure, whereby the interests of the British merchants were greatly injured, and their property was laid at the mercy of that company, who were their rivals in the wine trade, and were invested with very extraordinary and arbitrary powers†. The establishment of exclusive companies for the trade to Maranham and Pernambuco, contrary to the 2d, 3d, and 9th, articles of the treaty of 1654, had ruined many of the Portuguese merchants, who formerly carried on a flourishing trade to those places, and they being all indebted to the British merchants, the greatest part of the whole loss inevitably fell upon them.

Notwithstanding the preference stipulated for the English woollen manufactures by the treaty of 1703, the consumption of them was prohibited by new sumptuary laws. But the British merchants had the

freedom at the public expense. Not being willing to remain on the same island with his late master, whose oppression had driven him into rebellion, he begged of the governor to accept of his services upon an estate belonging to him in Dominica. His request was granted; and he has ever since been employed upon wages as a driver, or black overseer, and has discharged the duties of his office with fidelity and every demonstration of gratitude. He is still on the general's estate, and receives from him an annual present, which is regularly sent out along with the plantation stores. This little anecdote, as containing an important lesson to the proprietors of slaves, deserves to be publicly known.

As West-India goods, which now occupy so important a place in the general commerce of Great Britain, are produced entirely by the labour of negro slaves, it is of the utmost consequence,

that they be governed with a mild and steady authority by men of humanity, prudence, and liberal sentiments. But it has too often happened, that men of a very opposite character have acquired the property of them, or been set over them by their proprietors, whose licentious abuse of power has driven the unhappy slaves to acts of desperation, which have more than once endangered the life of every white person in Jamaica, and have been revenged by the effusion of torrents of blood, shed with circumstances of deliberate cruelty, disgraceful to any people who call themselves civilized.

\* The reader may recollect a similar instance of prudent attention in the conduct of General Dalling the lieutenant-governor of Jamaica in the year 1760.

† Their powers seem to have been more suitable to the general of an invading army, than to a commercial company.

mortification to see those laws dispensed with in favour of French cloths without any difficulty.

The court of Portugal, as if desirous of ruining the British trade, cramped it with new duties upon goods and ships, and many new oppressive regulations and delays.

The British merchants found it next to impossible to recover their debts in the Portuguese courts of justice: they were moreover compelled to take in payment actions (or shares) of the very companies, which had been set up with a view to destroy their trade, which shares the officers of the revenue, and even the companies themselves, refused to take in payments.

The property of the British merchants was frequently seized for the service of the king, and even for convents of monks supported by the king, and the payment delayed for many years, or totally withheld. The violences were committed not only in the pressure of war, but also during the tranquillity of peace.

#### Estimate of the trade between Great Britain and Portugal.

| Britain and the British dominions receive from Portugal            | Portugal receives from Britain and the British dominions  |
|--|---|
| Wine of Oporto, 22,000 pipes, - - - £220,000                       | Woollen, linen, and other manufactures from Britain, rice from America, camblets from Ireland, carried to Lisbon, £450,000 <sup>b</sup> |
| — Lisbon, 7,000, - 63,000  | Fish from Newfoundland, 42,000  |
| — Madeira and the other islands, 12,000, 240,000 <sup>a</sup>      | Butter and beef from Ireland, - - - 40,000  |
| Oranges and lemons, 50,000 chests, - 75,000                        | Staves from America, and coals, &c. - - 8,000   |
| Salt, 40,000 moys, - 24,000  | Woollens, linens, &c. carried to Oporto, - - 120,000  |
| Oil, morocco leather, cacao, brasil wood, drugs, &c. say - - 8,000 | Ditto to Martinho, - 25,000   |
| Balance in favour of Britain, - - - 105,000 <sup>c</sup>           | Fish from Newfoundland to Vianna, - - 6,000   |
|  | Manufactures and provisions to Madeira and the other islands, - 44,000  |
|  | £735,000  |

The following are original notes by the merchants.

<sup>a</sup> By the custom-house books at Madeira it appears, that above 11,000 pipes were shipped in the year 1765 from that island only: so this article may be presumed to be rather under, than above, the truth\*.

<sup>b</sup> This sum is taken from a transcript of the custom-house books at Lisbon, procured at a great

expense. The other articles are estimated by people conversant in the trade.

<sup>c</sup> The smallness of the balance will surprise those, who, accustomed to consider the trade with Portugal as the most valuable branch of the British commerce, suppose (without grounds) that it amounts to two millions annually: and some even pretend, that Portugal pays Britain an annual balance of two millions.

\* Sir George Staunton states the produce of the island of Madeira only at near 25,000 pipes of Madeira wine, and about 500 pipes of malmsley, the half of all which is carried to the British dominions and America. [*Embassy to China, V. i, p. 78 of 8vo ed.*]

The trade to the port of Faro in Algarva is not brought into this estimate, but the imports and exports there are nearly equal. Neither is there any estimate of the diamonds received from Portugal, or of the sugars carried from Portugal to Ireland, or the corn from Ireland to Portugal.

May—The king of Denmark having established a company at his town of Altona in Germany, for carrying on a herring fishery in the North sea, (that is to say, on the coasts of Shetland and Scotland), the society of the Free British fishery, established in the year 1750, were apprehensive that the magistrates of Hamburg, with whom they had entered into a treaty for the importation of British herrings, would be induced to give a preference to the herrings brought by their near neighbours of Altona. On this occasion the society represented, that the ships of war, appointed to attend the fishing grounds, might easily prevent foreigners from fishing too near the coast, whereby our own fishermen would enjoy the preferable fishing grounds on our own coasts, and also be freed from the intolerable insolence of the Dutch fishermen. They also asserted, that their industry and perseverance had now so far surmounted all obstacles, that in foreign markets the British herrings were pronounced to be 'equal, and even superior, to those of the Dutch.' And they expressed their hope, that the British minister at Hamburg might be able to prevent the Danish herrings from being imported there on easier terms than the British.

The trustees for fisheries and manufactures in Scotland, and the convention of the royal burghs of Scotland, were consulted with respect to the probable consequences to the British fishery, from the establishment of the Danish company at Altona; and the following facts are selected from the reports of those boards.

For some years past the capriciousness of the herrings in their migrations had carried them so close upon the shores of Norway and Sweden, that they were taken at very little expense by small boats with dragnets, whereby the state of the herring trade in the Baltic and Hamburg markets, was totally reversed. Formerly the Scots used to carry great quantities of herrings to those markets: but the Swedes have some years ago laid a duty of nine shillings a barrel on herrings imported from Britain. The Swedes in each of the years 1764 and 1765, exported from Gothenburg near 20,000 barrels of herrings to Ireland, whence they are carried to the British colonies, which also receive great quantities from the Dutch and Danes, by the clandestine trade from the islands of Saint Eustathius and Santa Cruz.

They observed, that the fishery had been much discouraged by the delay of paying the bounty, which was now in arrears for three years, to the amount of £40,000, the debentures for which were selling at a ruinous discount.

The navigation of the great lakes, or inland seas, of America was now beginning to assume a respectable appearance. Four brigs from 40 to 70 tuns, and sixteen armed cutters, were now sailing upon Lake Ontario, the lowermost of the great chain of vast lakes in the interior part of North America. And we may believe that the trading intercourse upon these lakes will at no very remote period emulate, or exceed, that of the Caspian sea.

Between May 1766 and May 1767 there were 70,000 yards of cambric made at Dundalk, the produce of 160 looms. This manufacture had already given a check to the importation of French cambrics in Ireland, and was expected to be an object of the utmost importance.

A duty of sixpence a chaldron on coals for forty-six years was granted to the city of London, for the purposes of redeeming the tolls on the bridges, embanking the river, repairing the exchange, and rebuilding Newgate.

To prevent frauds in the coal trade, land coal-meters were appointed by act of parliament. The sacks were ordered to be four feet long, and two feet wide: and the buyer, if dissatisfied with the appearance of his quantity of coals, might have them remeasured at his own door, whereupon, if they are found short of measure, the seller is fined: but if they are found sufficient, an expense of sixpence a chaldron, and half-a-crown for every hour's demurrage of the cart, falls upon the purchaser; which, together with a considerable deal of trouble attending the remeasurement, will generally induce the buyers to submit quietly to the pillage of the carmen, against which there is no other precaution provided. [7 *Geo. III*, c. 23.]

On the application of the magistrates of Edinburgh, the royalty, or jurisdiction, of the city was extended over several of the adjacent fields, with a view of building new streets on the north side of the antient city, preparatory to which a bridge of communication was now building. At the same time a theatre-royal was, for the first time, established at Edinburgh. [7 *Geo. III*, c. 27.]

An additional duty of threepence was laid on every ell of drilling and linen above yard-wide, imported. This duty, together with additional duties of six shillings per dozen upon bast or straw, chip, cane, and horse-hair, hats and bonnets, was destined to go towards the payment of the interest of money borrowed this year. [7 *Geo. III*, cc. 20, 28.]

Rice, sago powder, and vermicelli, were allowed to be imported free of any duties from the British colonies in America for limited times, viz. the rice till 1st December 1767, and the other articles till 1st December 1781. [7 *Geo. III*, c. 30.]

Several acts nearly expired were further continued, viz. those against clandestine running of goods, and danger of infection thereby: that for

permitting rice from Carolina to be carried to any part of Europe south of Cape Finisterre, in ships built in Great Britain, and navigated according to law; and also that which prohibits the importation of books printed abroad, and copied from books first written and printed in this kingdom. All these acts were prolonged till 29th September 1774. [7 *Geo. III*, c. 35.]

The free importation of cochineal and indigo, agreeable to the act of 33 *Geo. II*, was continued. [7 *Geo. III*, c. 36.]

The city of London, being engaged in building a bridge over the Thames at Blackfriars, had borrowed £144,000 on the credit of the tolls to be taken on it: and a further sum of £58,500 was estimated to be necessary to finish the bridge and its concomitant improvements; as also £7,500 for making an embankment on the north side of the river, from the west side of Powell's wharf near Puddle dock, to the east corner of Robert's wharf near Milford lane; £50,000 for rebuilding Newgate; and £10,000 for repairing the royal exchange. It was now enacted, that in due time the new bridge should be freed from the payment of the tolls taken upon it, and that London bridge should also be freed from the tolls taken upon it: also that the city should pay annually £800 towards paving the streets of Westminster, and £480 towards the pavement of the burgh of Southwark. And for all these improvements adequate funds were provided and apportioned. [7 *Geo. III*, c. 37.]

The English engravers having now arrived at a degree of excellence, which renders their works a considerable object of commerce, it becomes proper to observe, that the old act [8 *Geo. II*, c. 13] for securing the property of engravings, was found ineffectual against piracies upon their property; and it was now enacted, that the proprietors of all plates of historical prints, portraits, maps, plans, or any other prints whatsoever, engraved after the first of January 1767, should have an exclusive right to the same for twenty-eight years from the day of publication, so as to prevent any copies from being engraved, printed, or imported for sale, provided the prosecution is commenced within six months after the commission of the offence. And on this occasion Mrs. Hogarth, the widow of the celebrated moral engraver, was indulged with an extra term, of about six years, in the exclusive property of the works of her late husband; excepting only that copies made from the prints, of which the exclusive property was already expired agreeable to the former act, might still be sold. [7 *Geo. III*, c. 38.]

For the protection and preservation of the roads, the weight to be carried in the several kinds of carts and waggons, was regulated according to the nature of their wheels: and weighing engines were ordered to be constructed at the turnpikes. Among a great number of regulations for the benefit of the roads, the establishment of guide-posts, con-

taining the necessary information concerning the neighbouring towns and villages, and of mile-stones to inform the traveler of the progress he has made, and of what remains unperformed of his journey, as also the punishments appointed for the destroyers of guide-posts, banks, or other fences set up to guard the road, and for the destroyers of turn-pikes or weighing engines, shew a laudable attention to one of the most important branches of national police. [7 *Geo. III*, cc. 40, 42.]

In order to avoid the inconvenience and delays, which arose from the revenue officers in America being often obliged to apply for instructions in doubtful points to the commissioners of the customs in London, the king was empowered to appoint commissioners of the customs to reside in America, and perform the functions of their office independent of the commissioners at home. Boston was fixed on to be the residence of the new commissioners, whose office was destined to be but of short continuance. [7 *Geo. III*, c. 41.]

An act was passed enforcing and amending the several laws already existing against the importation of French cambrics and French lawns, to be used in Britain; and restricting the importation of them for re-exportation to the port of London only. [7 *Geo. III*, c. 43.]

Instead of the former duties upon policies of assurance (or insurance), all policies upon ship or cargo, or both, for sums not exceeding £1,000 were charged with a stamp duty of five shillings, and for all sums above £1,000 with two such stamps. But no additional risk is permitted to be added to that which is mentioned in the original policy, by any writing not duly stamped. [7 *Geo. III*, c. 44.]

Among a great multitude of regulations for the imports and exports, manufactures, &c. of the island of Mann, there are a set of premiums appointed for the encouragement of the herring fishery and the linen manufacture in that island. [7 *Geo. III*, c. 45.]

Duties were laid upon glass, painter's colours, teas, paper, paste-board, and paper hangings, exported from Great Britain to America, which were to be paid at landing in America. The revenue expected from these duties was destined for the support of the civil governments in the colonies, and the remainder was to be paid into the exchequer, and to be disposed of by parliament, towards the expense of defending the British colonies in America. By the same act the exporters of China earthen ware to America were deprived of the drawback they hitherto enjoyed. And at the same time, as an encouragement to the planters of coffee and cacao in the colonies, the whole duties payable on the importation of these articles were allowed to be drawn back on exportation. [7 *Geo. III*, c. 46.]

As the continental and insular colonies considered their interests as very different, if not quite opposite, this favour, whereby the later only could be benefited, could have no effect in soothing the spirits of the



former, who were at present very far from being in good humour, and were exasperated by this law to a degree of resentment and alienation from the mother country, nothing inferior to that which was excited by the stamp act, and which, after they were further embittered by this act, were continually breaking out in acts of violence and outrage (the detail of which does not belong to this work), till at last they flamed out in those open hostilities, which separated the most of the American continental colonies from Great Britain.

The exportation of logwood free from duty was permitted: and *for the improvement of the revenue*, the duty upon succus liquoritiæ imported, was reduced from £7 : 2 : 6, to £1 : 10 : 0, the hundredweight. A duty of two and a half per cent ad valorem, according to the rate fixed in the twelfth year of Charles II, was laid on the exportation from Great Britain of rice, imported free of duty from the British American colonies. The use of foreign lace and needle-work was utterly prohibited, and they were directed to be locked up in the king's warehouses, and delivered thence for exportation only. [7 Geo. III, c. 47.]

The government now began to interfere in the affairs of the East-India company, which hitherto had been left to their own direction. They had acquired a vast territorial revenue; and it became a question, whether, as subjects of Great Britain, they could be sovereigns in India; an *imperium in imperio* being universally acknowledged to be a solecism in politics. It was asserted, that all conquests made by British subjects, though they should be made entirely at their own expense and risk, must belong to the crown, and that, in this case, great expense had been incurred by the nation, which at any rate must be entitled to a very large participation of the revenues. On the other hand it was urged, that no such reservation to the crown had been made, when the charters were granted and confirmed by parliament, for obtaining every one of which the company had given a valuable consideration, and consequently were entitled to every advantage that might accrue from it. As to the plea of expense, that of the nation had been very trifling, if compared to that of the company, and could at best only constitute a debt: and such an infringement of property and public faith would be a most fatal precedent, and would be destructive of all confidence in government.

In November 1766 parliament had appointed a committee to enquire into the situation of the company's affairs, their charters, their transactions and treaties with the princes of India, the state of their revenues arising from Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa, and even their correspondence with their servants in India, and also all expenses incurred by government on the company's account, whether in the naval, military, or any other department; all which were ordered to be printed, and it was with difficulty that the company got their private correspondence with

their servants in India exempted from the publicity, to which all their other affairs were soon after exposed.

At a meeting of the company on the 6th of May, their half year's dividend, payable at Christmas next, was declared to be *six and a quarter per cent.* The stockjobbers immediately laid hold of so very large an advance \*, and, trumpeting forth with open mouth the advantages obtained in India by Lord Clive, boldly predicted, that the dividends would soon rise to fifty per cent, and the price of stock to 900 or 1,000. They actually carried it up to 263 at this time, and the nation was in danger of a renewal of the madness of the South-sea year.

But these towering hopes were instantly dashed to the ground by parliament, who, apparently apprehensive of stockjobbing manœuvres for carrying questions in the meetings of the company, made a law against the practice of splitting votes, for the purpose of making temporary proprietors to give votes in the general courts of any of the public companies, and declared, that no proprietor should be entitled to vote after the 1st of August 1767, who had not held his or her stock six months, or acquired it by legacy, by marriage, or by the custom of the city of London. And to prevent the dangerous consequences of sudden and unwarrantable alterations in the rates of the dividends, it was enacted, that dividends should be only declared at a half-yearly or quarterly general court, at least five months after the declaration of the preceding dividend; that the declaration should be only for one dividend; and that every proposition for increasing the rate of a dividend should be decided by ballot three entire days, at the least, after the breaking up of the general court wherein the proposal was made. [7 Geo. III, c. 48.]

This act, which was generally binding upon all the public companies, was immediately followed by a particular law for regulating the dividends of the East-India company, in order to secure as well 'the permanent interest of the said company, as the state of credit both private and public, from the mischiefs, which must ensue from an improper and improvident increase of the dividends of the said company, which cannot be effectually done without the interposition of parliament.' It was therefor enacted, that after the 24th of June 1767 no dividend should be made but by ballot in a general meeting of the company, summoned expressly for that purpose by at least seven days' previous notice fixed on the exchange of London, and that *no dividend above ten per cent per annum* should be made before the next session of parliament. [7 Geo. III, c. 49.]

• By this act the late declaration of the increase of dividend was ref-

\* From the year 1755 to 1766 the dividend was only six per cent for the year.

cinded ; and those, who had speculated largely in India stock upon the hopes of a further increase, were grievously disappointed.

In support of the strong measure of reducing the dividend, it was argued, that the company ought to discharge all their debts, before they pretended to enlarge their dividends, and that the expectation of large dividends would introduce a boundless and ruinous spirit of gambling. On the other hand it was observed, that no commercial company can ever be entirely free from debt, but that the company possessed abundant funds for the discharge of every demand ; of which their creditors were so well assured, that instead of expressing any anxiety for their payment, as parliament was doing for them, they showed, by the premium they demanded for parting with the company's bonds, that at least a majority of them were rather unwilling to receive payment : and finally, that to express a doubt of the company's ability to pay their debts, and at the same time to demand from them an annual payment, much larger than the whole of their dividends, was at least very inconsistent. The bill was not carried through parliament without very keen opposition in both houses, many members insisting that the objections to the dividend of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent per annum, which was legally voted by the proper court, were entirely without foundation, and exceedingly injurious to those who had occasion to sell stock ; and the measure was moreover highly exceptionable, as being an *ex post facto* law, which in its consequences would be very injurious to private property, and alarming to public credit.

The company, when they found themselves in the hands of a power, with whom they could not deal on the equal terms of accepting, or rejecting, a proposal, and with whom they could far less contend, had presented to parliament a petition, containing two propositions, one of which, they hoped, would be accepted.

By the first, the company requested government to grant them some advantages respecting the inland duties on their teas, and a drawback on the exportation of them to Ireland and the colonies, and some others respecting raw silks, calicoes, muslins, the recruiting service, and military stores. And they proposed in return, that, after deducting £400,000 a-year, in lieu of the company's former commercial profits, the net produce of the remaining revenues and trade, after deducting all charges, should be equally divided between the government and the company, provided the company's property in the new acquisitions continued for three years.

By the second, the company offered, upon the same terms, to pay to government for three years, the specific sum of £400,000 a-year in half-yearly payments, and to indemnify the revenue for any loss that might proceed from the advantages they required in the tea trade, if the advanced consumption of it, taken on an average of five years, should not

produce duties equal in amount to the former ones. And they entreated parliament to consider the many dangers to which their property had been exposed, and their prodigious heavy expenses in India, which, notwithstanding they had lost very few ships at sea, had for many years kept their dividends very low, while the public were in the uninterrupted possession of an annual revenue arising from their trade, fully equal to a third part of their whole capital.

The parliament did not accept either of the propositions in the terms offered, but dictated their own terms in two acts, which were immediately passed.

By the first, the inland duty of one shilling a pound was taken off those kinds of tea called *black teas*, cleared out of the East-India company's warehouses for consumption in Great Britain, for five years after the 5th of July 1767; and the teas exported in the original packages to Ireland and the British-American colonies were entitled to draw back the whole duties. This regulation being calculated to increase the consumption of teas legally imported, and to enlarge the East-India company's sales, they were bound, in case the revenue arising from teas during these five years should fall short of its amount during the five preceding years, to make good the deficiency. [7 *Geo. III, c. 56.*]

By the second, the East-India company, in consideration of their territorial acquisitions, became bound to pay to the public £400,000 a year for two years, commencing from the 1st of February 1767. It was, however, provided, that, if the company should be deprived of their territories, or any part of them, during that period, a proportional abatement of the payment should take place. [7 *Geo. III, c. 57.*]

The other acts of this session, which concerned commerce, were the following.

‘Whereas it is of the utmost importance to the trade and commerce of these kingdoms, that all letters, packets, bank-notes, bills of exchange, and other things, may be sent and conveyed with the greatest safety and security,’ any person in the service of the post-office embezzling or destroying any letter containing any valuable paper, or picking out such valuable paper, is deemed guilty of felony, and condemned to suffer death without benefit of clergy. And the robbery of the mail, or of a post-office, is also made felony. [7 *Geo. III, c. 50.*]

An act was passed for improving the navigation of the river Lea, and extending it to the town of Hartford. The navigation of it was declared to be free to all the king's subjects, on paying the appointed rates and duties; and manure carried upon the river was wholly exempted from payment. [7 *Geo. III, c. 51.*]

The utility of inland navigation being daily more and more understood, several other acts were passed for improving the channels of

rivers; for they still adhered so much to the old ideas, as to think a river, that could be made navigable, preferable to a canal.

An act was passed for building a pier at, and otherwise improving the harbour of, St. Ives in Cornwall, which, if the access to it were easy, would afford great protection to ships on that coast. [7 *Geo. III*, c. 52.]

For the establishment of a fund of £15,000 a-year, to encourage the cultivation and dressing of hemp and flax, additional duties were laid upon foreign canvases and lawns, to be repaid on such as should be exported. [7 *Geo. III*, c. 58.]

Mr. Buckland, British consul at Nice, who had formerly recommended a direct intercourse between the dominions of Piedmont and Britain, this summer sent home notice, that the trade, begun in consequence of his advice, was now considerably increased; and that in the years 1765 and 1766 six rich cargoes of silk, oil, &c. had arrived at London, and two at Exeter, from Nice and Villa-Franca: and in the same two years ten valuable cargoes from London, six from other ports in England, and two from British America, had arrived at those ports.

Mr. Frazer, British consul at Tripoli, sent home a very full and circumstantial 'General state of the commerce of Tripoli' by sea with the nations bordering on the Mediterranean, and by land with the natives of the interior parts of Africa, of which the following is a summary.

| Tripoli exports to  | Zechins •. | Tripoli imports from   | Zechins. |
|---|------------|--|----------|
| <i>Leghorn</i> , goods to the value of - - -  | 14,930     | <i>Leghorn</i> , goods to the value of - - -   | 21,459   |
| <i>Venice</i> , - - -   | 6,025      | <i>Venice</i> , - - -  | 10,795   |
| <i>Constantinople, Smyrna, Alexandria, Candia</i> , and the other islands and ports of the <i>Levant</i> , chiefly in negro slaves, 50,485                |            | <i>Constantinople, Smyrna, &amp;c.</i>   | 46,390   |
| <i>Tunis</i> , - - -  | 000        | <i>Tunis</i> , - - -   | 2,300    |
| <i>Malta</i> , - - -  | 1,815      | <i>Malta</i> , - - -   | 1,480    |
| Tripoli sends annually by the inland caravans to  |            | Tripoli receives from  |          |
| <i>Fezzan</i> , chiefly in foreign goods, - - -   | 26,475     | <i>Fezzan</i> , negro slaves, sena, dates, ostrich feathers, gum-arabic, &c. to the value of - - - | 37,380   |
| The traders remain four or five months at <i>Fezzan</i> , where they meet with the caravans from <i>Bornou</i> , <i>Zanfara</i> , <i>Agdes</i> , which is |            |  |          |

• The zechin at Tripoli is worth 8/6 sterling nearest.

|  | Zechins. |  | Zechins. |
|--|----------|--|----------|
| in the heart of Africa,<br>and Tombuctoo*. |          | <i>Gadamis</i> , negroes, sena, gold-<br>dust, and ostrich feathers, | 9,725    |
| <i>Gadamis</i> †, the same goods,          | 7,610    |  |          |

The produce of the provinces of Barca, (the antient Cyren-  
aica) subject to Tripoli, is annually worth - - - 20,920

The excess of the imports in the inland caravan trade is not a balance against Tripoli, but the gross profit made by the trade.

The general balance in trade against Tripoli, is paid by the sale of slaves taken in their piracies, and the money spent among them by the agents and consuls of the several European powers with whom they are at peace.

Tripoli has for some centuries been the mart in the Mediterranean for black slaves, who are annually exported thence to Constantinople, and a few other ports in the Turkish dominions. Christians being prohibited from possessing slaves of the Mohamedan religion, this trade is wholly in the hands of Moorish merchants, and therefor so little known to Europeans.

Mr. Frazer observed, that though there were no direct trade between Great Britain and Tripoli, a considerable part of the goods imported into it was of British manufacture.

Mr. Frazer anticipated the zeal of the present day for discoveries in the interior parts of Africa, with which, under prudent direction, a more extensive, and more mutually-beneficial commerce may some day be carried on, than has ever yet been driven upon its coasts: and he pointed out the most proper method of prosecuting the discovery, and profiting by it.

It is worthy of remark, that crimson leather, which forms a considerable part of the exports from Tripoli, was noted as a manufacture of the same country before the age of Herodotus.

The British consul-general, and merchants, in the kingdom of Naples, again complained of several oppressive innovations upon the privileges formerly enjoyed by the British traders in that country, and particularly of the suppression of the vice-consuls in the outports, and a seizure made by the government of an English ship stranded at Cuma.

So very numerous were the people in the British-American colonies, that so long ago as the year 1755 Samuel Hazard of Philadelphia had applied to the king for leave to establish a new colony of several thou-

\* Mourzouc, the capital of Fezzan, and the scene of this traffic, is about 400 miles south-east from Tripoli. Agdes (or rather Agades, called Agodost by the geographer Edrissi) is about 750 miles south from Tripoli, from which Zamfara and Bornou extend to the eastward, and

Tombuctoo to the westward, so that the trade carried on at Fezzan accomodates an extent of country measuring at least 1,500 miles from east to west, in the very heart of Africa.

† Called also Ghedemes and Godemsee, about 180 miles south-east from Tripoli.



land people on the Ohio. This year the application was renewed by General Phineas Lyman, an officer on the American establishment, in behalf of himself and the rest of the officers and soldiers of the several corps of American provincial troops disbanded at the late peace; and also in behalf of 4,320 of the subscribers to Hazard's intended colony. Their proposal was to settle a tract of country extending 100 miles on each side of the Ohio, and 300 miles east from the Mississippi, to be purchased with the free good will of the Illinois, the Indian proprietors.

The new provinces, being in a great measure settled by people trained up in their early life to agriculture, and afterwards habituated to a military life, would be an excellent military barrier, as well as a most productive agricultural territory, the country being of so rich a soil, that the French used to call it *the terrestrial paradise*.

The rich productions of this country, consisting of corn, hemp, flax, silk, indigo, madder, wines, &c. being carried down the Mississippi, would plentifully supply the province of West-Florida, the merchants of which must enjoy the benefit of shipping the produce, and supplying the proposed colony with vast quantities of British goods, the vessels adapted to the navigation of the river being incapable of crossing the Ocean. It was alleged, that these advantages would soon make West-Florida an opulent and flourishing province, of great advantage to the mother country, upon which it had hitherto been a heavy burthen; and that the Indians, by good treatment and fair trading, would be glad of the near neighbourhood of the white people.

What may, perhaps, appear singular, the advocate for these new colonies, among other advantages to be derived from them, insisted, that such an establishment would operate as a check upon the attempts of the inhabitants of the old colonies to become independent of Great Britain, by draining them of their redundant population \*.

\* The period will doubtless come, when North-America will no longer acknowledge a dependence on any part of Europe. But that period seems to be so remote, as not to be at present an object of rational policy or human prevention, [and] it will be made still more remote by opening new scenes of agriculture, and widening the space which the colonists must first completely occupy. [Conclusion of General Lyman's Memorial.]

In the present state of affairs, it may be at least amusing, if not instructive, to see the opinion of another person acquainted with American affairs, who, upon this occasion, wrote a paper, never printed, entitled, *Some thoughts upon Indian affairs*, &c.

He also recommends colonizing the interior parts of America, but prefers the country of the Natchez, farther down the Mississippi, for the seat of the new colony, which the French writers have

described as a healthy, fertile, and pleasant country, producing wine, tobacco of a superior quality, rice, olives, &c. A colony there would not, like that on the barren coast of Nova-Scotia, be nine or ten years before it could draw any subsistence from the ground, and require in that time near a million sterling from the mother country.

He elsewhere says, 'It would be lavishing money to no purpose to grant annual supplies merely for the subsistence of the colony, which only enables new settlers to build fine houses, and live idly at the expense of the mother country. But to grant large premiums for the productions of the earth would turn the minds of the settlers directly to industry, and the cultivation of produce suited to the climate, which would enable the colony in a few years to send large returns home to this island.' He advises, that the premiums be paid at an early stage of the cultivation.

Though this proposal for the establishment of three new governments in the interior part of America was approved of by Sir William Johnson, the venerable superintendant of Indian affairs in the northern districts, every argument in favour of it was completely repelled by the lords of trade and plantations, in a representation made to the king upon the business, in the beginning of the ensuing year.

While this scheme was in agitation for depriving the Indians of their country, some regulations were made to prevent white people from hunting upon their grounds, or from trading clandestinely with the Indians of the southern district. The quantity of spiritous liquors to be carried into the Indian country was regulated, whereby, it was hoped, a stop might be put to the frequent murders, and other enormities, occasioned by the immoderate use of those dangerous liquors.

October 28<sup>th</sup>—At a town meeting held at Boston in New-England, several resolutions were *unanimously* voted, which showed a determination rather to widen, than to heal, the breach with the mother country, and to direct their attacks against her commerce, which they considered as her most vulnerable part, as well as that which they could distress without the infringement of any law.

In the preamble, they say, 'Whereas the excessive use of foreign superfluities is the chief cause of the present distressed state of this town, as it is thereby drained of its money; which misfortune is likely to be increased, by means of the late additional burthens and impositions on the trade of the province; which threaten the country with poverty

cultivation, e. g. £20 per acre for every vine-yard not exceeding five acres, because new settlers are seldom able to wait for distant returns for their industry, without ruinous consequences; and this, he contends, would be the cheapest method of supporting an infant colony. 'Whoever attentively considers the nature of our settlements in the continent of America, will soon be convinced, that it is for the interest of this nation to check population in the northern colonies, and encourage it in the southern.' \* \* \* \* Our territories in North-America are nearly as large as all Europe; consequently, if we diffuse the colonists widely all-over them, especially in the southern climates, we will not need to be apprehensive of their increasing numbers for ages to come, provided means be taken to keep up the population of this island in a due proportion. 'But to suffer towns to multiply in the northern colonies, and to encourage the forming of a considerable naval force there, is to render those colonies rather the *rivals*, than the *auxiliaries*, to their mother country; and it may be questioned, whether they do not rival it already in some

branches of navigation. *If proper regulations were established, a more useful, and perhaps as lucrative, a fishery might be found on the coasts of this island, as on those of America. There appears something singular in leaving a British fishery to the Dutch, and in going to seek another a thousand leagues off.* If the fishery of this nation be encouraged upon the coasts of North-America, that will insensibly draw the chief fishers to reside there likewise. But prudence would require to keep those as much as possible at home, as one of the readiest resources of our naval strength, which is the right hand of our power, and cannot be too carefully, and too watchfully, cherished.' He concludes, by observing, that 'To encourage population in the southern colonies, is directly promoting the interest of this island, and is the speediest method of strengthening our settlements on the continent of America: for, in the south, where the soil and climate afford two or three rich harvests annually, a colony will advance more in ten years, than in an hundred years in the north, where nature lies dead half the year.'

\* 'I laugh to see the zeal that ministry had about the fishing of Newfoundland (I think), while no care was taken against the Dutch fishing just at our doors.' [Swift.]

‘and ruin.’ They therefor resolved immediately to lessen the use of all superfluities imported from abroad, viz. ‘loaf-sugar, cordage, anchors, coaches, chaifes, and carriages of all sorts, horse-furniture, men’s and women’s hats, men’s and women’s apparel ready made, household furniture, gloves, men’s and women’s shoes, sole-leather, sheathing and deck nails, gold and silver and thread lace of all sorts, gold and silver buttons, wrought plate of all sorts, diamonds, stone and paste ware, snuff, mustard, clocks and watches, silversmith’s and jeweller’s ware, broad cloths that cost above 10<sup>s</sup> per yard, muffs, furs, and tippets, and all sorts of millinery ware, starch, women’s and children’s stays, fire-engines, china ware, silk and cotton velvets, gauze, pewterer’s hollow ware, linseed-oil, glue, lawns, cambrics, silks of all kinds for garments, malt liquors, and cheese \*.’ And they resolved totally to abstain from them after the 1<sup>st</sup> of December next.

They also resolved by all prudent ways and means to encourage the manufactures of British America, and more especially those of their own province: and they particularly recommended to the public attention and patronage the manufactures of glass and paper.

They moreover resolved to retrench all superfluous expense of new clothes, &c. at funerals, and on such occasions to use no gloves but of American manufacture.

The French prohibited all British vessels from entering the ports of Guadaloupe and Martinique: and two British-American schooners were actually seized at Martinique, though the inhabitants were at the very time in great distress for want of beef, pork, flour, &c. with which they were loaded.

The Spaniards also showed a hostile disposition to our commerce by contracting the time allowed for British vessels to remain at Monte Christi to twenty-four hours, and preventing the logwood cutters from working at Spiritu Santo.

Captain Holland, surveyor-general of the northern district of America, transmitted home an account of the former and present state of the island of Cape Breton. It appears that, when the French were in possession of this island, they employed in the fishery on various parts of the coast

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| 300 decked schooners and sloops, carrying 2,400 men, and                    | Quintals of fish. |
| taking, on an average, 700 quintals of fish,                                | 210,000           |
| 1,459 shalops, carrying 8,754 men, and taking, on an average, 300 quintals, | 437,700           |
|   | <hr/> 647,700     |
| the value of which on the island at 10 <sup>s</sup> was.                    | £323,850          |

\* As several articles in this list, e. g. cordage, anchors, shoes, leather, nails, &c. are evidently not superfluities, the reason of inserting them must have been, that such articles were manufactured in America, which, if not equally good with those of British fabric, they determined to content themselves with.

besides the value of the fish oil, train oil, whale-bone, mackerels, and herrings, got on this coast, all of which were considerable. It is moreover a great object to a maritime power to have so many seamen bred up in an employment, which so eminently qualifies them for encountering the hardships of a seafaring life.

He says, that there were only 11 decked vessels, and 68 shalops, employed in the fishery, when he made his survey: but the coast, estimating it by the extent of beach fit for curing the fish, might afford employment for 820 decked vessels, and 2250 shalops, which would require above 20,000 men to man them; and the fish caught by them, together with the oil made from those fish, would find employment for 653 sizeable vessels to carry them to markets.

Besides the important cod fishery, Cape Breton is excellently situated for carrying on a fishery for whales, which abound near its shores, and for salmon, mackerels, herrings, &c.

The inland part of the country abounds with beavers and other animals with valuable furs. It also produces plaster of the best sort, marble, lime-stone, free-stone for building, and timber for building; also coals, of which between two and three thousand chaldrons were dug this year by a company, who had contracted to pay government 2000 dollars for permission to work them.

Commodore Palliser, governor of Newfoundland, in his report upon the fishery this year, observed, that the number of vessels employed therein had annually increased of late, and the number of men returning to Britain and Ireland had also been fully double of what it ever was for sixty years past, though still not equal in proportion to the number of men returning annually to France from the limited fishery allowed to that country. He reflected severely on the avaritious and cruel custom, long practised by the commanders of fishing ships, of leaving many of their fishermen on the desolate coast of Newfoundland when the fishing season is over, whereby their families are left destitute at home, and themselves forced into a life of idleness and rapine, and obliged to sell themselves to the colonies, or piratically run off with vessels, which they carry to the continent of America. By these nefarious practices the Newfoundland fishery, which is supposed to be one of the most valuable nurseries of seamen for the navy, has long been an annual drain, which has carried off thousands of the stoutest and most valuable seamen to the *rival* (rather than *subject*) fishing colonies in America\*.

His accounts of the fishery on the coast of Labrador, which he had visited this season, state, that twenty-seven British fishing vessels were there this year; and that those, who formerly objected to the establish-

\* In a statement of the number of British ships and men, employed at Newfoundland during the last four years, he estimates the men run to Ame-

rica in 1764 at 1,500, in 1765 at 1,000, and in 1766 and 1767 at 200 each year.

ment of a ship fishery there, have now addressed him to support it, which he has done agreeable to their wishes, and has also confirmed some regulations, agreed upon among the whalers, respecting the division of whales killed by the boats of different ships. He adds, that the crews of the vessels from the colonies, who had been accustomed to keep the coast in a state of warfare, to set the woods on fire, and to do all in their power to exclude and ruin the fishers from Great Britain, were not so licentious and insolent this season as they used to be; and all were now convinced of the necessity of submitting to order and government.

State of the fishery in the season 1767.

|                           | vessels. | tunnage. | seamen. | passengers. | quintals of fish cured. | tuns of train oil. |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|---------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| British fishing vessels,  | 258      | 23,419   | 3,946   | 7,070       | 208,570                 | 941                |
| British sack vessels,     | 92       | 10,532   | 888     |             |                         |                    |
| American vessels,         | 115      | 6,397    | 680     |             | unknown                 | unknown            |
| Bye boats, -              | 372      |          | 2,188   |             | 79,590                  | 431                |
| Boats of the inhabitants, | 1,151    |          |         |             | 265,150                 | 1,240              |

Of the 258 British fishing vessels, 27 fished on the coast of Labrador.

The 115 American vessels brought cargoes of rum, melasses, bread, flour, &c. the proceeds of which, with the prices of some of the vessels sold, may be rated at £100,000, paid mostly in bills of exchange, and a very small part of it with refuse fish.

The American colonists also employed about 300 vessels, estimated at 60 tuns and 13 men each, in the whale fishery about the coasts of Newfoundland, Labrador, and the Gulf of St. Laurence. In the gulf they killed 100 of the best whales in about six weeks; and their success in the other stations was also considerable. They also employed about 300 vessels, of about 60 tuns and 10 men each, on the banks of Newfoundland and Labrador; and each vessel may be supposed to take 800 quintals, which they carried to the ports of America, whence they came.

There were carried to foreign markets 533,620 quintals of fish (*i. e.* cod) the value of which was from 9/ to 13/ or in barter 15/ per quintal. The train oil was worth £14 or £15 per ton.

There were sent off 1,006 tierces of salmon, valued about 45/ each.

The value of seal oil made last winter in Newfoundland was £3,895.  
and in Labrador 4,937.

1,200 sea cows were taken at Madelaine.

Three tuns of whale-bone purchased from the Indians, together with furs taken by the inhabitants to the value of £2,041, complete the proceeds of this government, carried in British vessels, for the year 1767.

In October the governor and company of the bank of England raised the dividends upon their capital stock from *five* to *five and a half* per cent.

December—The several acts prohibiting the exportation, and encouraging the importation, of corn of all kinds were continued for a limited time. [8 *Geo. III, c. 1, 2, 3.*]

During the recess of parliament several orders of the same purport had been issued.

The society of arts and sciences this year honoured Mr. Doffie with a gold medal for his written communication of the method of making pot-ash and barilla in America. They also gave Mr. Philips a premium of £100 for discovering his improved method of dying leather red and yellow, which was found superior to what is imported from Morocco. They moreover presented another gold medal to Mr. Dingley for erecting at Limehouse a saw-mill to be worked by the wind, with an improved set of machinery for sawing timber with exactness and expedition. A committee of the society examined Mr. Pinchbeck's improvement of the wheel crane, which prevents the fatal accidents, to which it had formerly been liable.

The following authentic statement of the commerce of Petersburg, transmitted by the British consul, shows how greatly the British trade in Russia was improved in the course of this year. In the year 1767 there sailed from that port 200 British vessels, whereof 77 were for London, 21 for Hull, 14 for Bristol, and 41 for the other ports of England; 9 for Leith, and 16 for the other ports of Scotland; 7 for Dublin, and 4 for other ports in Ireland; 1 for America; and 10 for Lisbon and the Mediterranean. There sailed 202 vessels of other nations, of which 44 were for Amsterdam.

This year 74 vessels were loaded at Archangel, of which 40 were for Amsterdam, 15 for Hamburg, only 7 for London, and none for any other British port. Hence it appears, that the English trade with Russia, originally established at Archangel, has almost entirely left that port, and fixed at Petersburg.

According to a report from the British resident at Hamburg, 254 vessels arrived in that city from British ports in the year 1766, whereof 167 were British; and in 1767 there arrived 224 from British ports, whereof 186 were British. The decrease of 30 ships, he says, is owing to the prohibition of exporting provisions, but, he adds, that the trade was in every other respect as brisk as before. There was also this year a decrease of 34 ships in the number of arrivals from France, but, the vessels being larger, the tunnage, or real quantity of shipping, is supposed to be as great now as before.

It appeared by the custom-house books, that above a million of money was paid for the corn imported in the course of this year.



There belonged this year to all the ports  
 of England 7,339 vessels of the reputed burthen of 556,905 tons,  
 and of Scotland 1,546 - - - 84,481

Total 8,885 - - - 641,386

The net amount of the customs, including the West-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the course of this year, was  
 from the custom-house in London - £2,350,850 5 0  
 and from the custom-house in Edinburgh - 5,000 0 0

Total net revenue of the customs of Great Britain £2,355,850 5 0

There were coined at the mint in the course of the year  
 27,219 pounds of gold, value - - £1,271 80 15 6  
 and no silver.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain, from Christmas 1766 to Christmas 1767, was as follows.

| Countries, &c.     | Imported into  |              | Exported from   |               |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
|                    | ENGLAND.       | SCOTLAND.    | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.     |
| Africa             | £55,981 8 6    |              | £558,062 5 8    | £509 3 2      |
| Canaries           | 6,001 19 4     |              | 38,289 4 5      |               |
| Denmark and Norway | 75,308 3 10    | £39,286 15 5 | 159,730 16 2    | 28,437 14 0   |
| East country       | 267,085 7 6    |              | 150,754 1 10    |               |
| East India         | 1,981,173 0 1  |              | 1,272,654 13 3  |               |
| Flanders           | 268,322 13 1   | 78 19 2      | 545,919 14 3    | 21,662 7 0    |
| France             | 174,089 17 4   | 3,207 6 10   | 232,031 7 4     | 193,606 9 7   |
| Germany            | 680,903 9 10   | 12,677 5 9   | 1,506,293 10 11 | 40,959 2 8    |
| Greenland          | 7,900 17 9     |              |                 | 999 14 2      |
| Holland            | 743,703 8 8    | 118,803 7 9  | 1,539,705 18 0  | 304,860 10 11 |
| Iceland            |                | 18 16 3      |                 | 12 10 6       |
| Ireland            | 1,103,285 6 11 | 123,412 4 1  | 1,880,486 13 9  | 267,288 8 7   |
| Mann               |                | 968 10 0     |                 | 66 3 9        |
| Italy              | 630,447 17 6   | 1,964 16 2   | 606,506 5 1     | 4,048 10 6    |
| Madeira            | 6,211 0 0      |              | 34,253 5 6      | 684 7 10      |
| Poland             |                | 29,236 3 6   |                 | 1,450 4 2     |
| Portugal           | 340,289 13 1   | 15,070 4 1   | 515,080 14 3    | 511 17 9      |
| Prussia            |                | 25,895 14 11 |                 | 145 19 0      |
| Russia             | 822,271 14 5   | 87,037 17 8  | 125,208 19 7    | 574 17 3      |
| Spain              | 593,504 19 3   | 6,140 3 6    | 1,144,777 19 8  | 11,477 1 2    |
| Gibraltar          |                | 1 3 4        |                 | 1,472 11 0    |
| Straits            | 11,375 19 11   |              | 69,772 5 4      |               |
| Sweden             | 175,515 7 6    | 21,248 18 8  | 44,336 16 5     | 7,887 14 4    |
| Turkey             | 99,950 15 10   |              | 44,094 19 10    |               |
| Venice             | 57,457 12 7    |              | 31,984 3 0      |               |
| Sardinia           |                | 145 16 8     |                 |               |
| Guernsey, &c.      | 36,698 13 5    | 2,706 16 8   | 59,863 8 10     | 3,327 12 1    |
| Hudson's Bay       | 9,942 10 11    |              | 4,981 18 8      |               |
| Newfoundland       | 48,950 18 6    | 1,356 17 2   | 53,550 10 7     | 1,084 19 8    |
| St. John's Island  | 178 12 8       |              | 1,942 0 8       |               |
| Quebec             | 42,044 12 5    | 992 9        | 194,406 3 9     | 6,338 2 4     |
| Nova-Scotia        | 753 4 5        |              | 25,094 10 1     |               |
| New-England        | 128,207 17 4   | 19,309 4 7   | 406,081 9 2     | 10,104 19 7   |
| New-York           | 61,422 18 7    | 3,071 13 2   | 417,957 15 5    | 6,922 4 4     |

| Countries, &c.                   | Imported into   |               | Exported from  |               |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
|                                  | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.     | ENGLAND.       | SCOTLAND.     |
| Pennsylvania . . . . .           | £37,641 17 0    | £5,021 17 0   | £371,830 8 10  | £11,291 7 8   |
| Maryland . . . . .               | 437,926 15 0    | 94,908 1 1    | 437,628 2 6    | 30,538 5 7    |
| Virginia . . . . .               |                 | 237,156 7 2   |                | 184,506 3 2   |
| North Carolina . . . . .         |                 | 12,247 0 1    |                | 14,883 18 2   |
| South Carolina . . . . .         | 395,027 10 1    | 5,095 12 1    | 244,093 6 0    | 9,694 4 11    |
| Georgia . . . . .                | 35,856 15 7     |               | 23,334 14 2    | 146 10 3      |
| Florida . . . . .                | 12,681 6 8      |               | 30,963 13 11   |               |
| Antigua . . . . .                | 394,727 10 2    | 45,894 6 3    | 119,740 16 6   | 11,128 13 5   |
| Anguilla . . . . .               | 4,117 13 10     |               |                |               |
| Barbados . . . . .               | 219,682 3 9     | 29,924 3 0    | 145,083 4 4    | 4,678 17 4    |
| Bermuda . . . . .                | 1,417 12 5      |               | 12,133 9 4     |               |
| Dominica . . . . .               | 118,978 19 3    |               | 30,863 6 6     |               |
| Grenada . . . . .                | 243,618 18 3    | 8,034 9 6     | 89,767 19 2    | 6,015 13 0    |
| Jamaica . . . . .                | 1,243,742 13 9  | 56,223 4 1    | 467,681 4 4    | 37,568 2 4    |
| Montserrat . . . . .             | 54,960 9 9      | 2,497 19 0    | 23,071 9 3     | 2,514 16 2    |
| Nevis . . . . .                  | 60,690 14 7     |               | 11,875 18 8    | 450 13 10     |
| New-Providence . . . . .         | 4,487 3 0       |               | 14,986 0 3     |               |
| St. Christophers . . . . .       | 276,013 9 9     | 12,641 2 1    | 106,162 8 7    | 17,811 12 0   |
| St. Vincents . . . . .           | 24,282 7 1      |               | 14,822 2 0     |               |
| Tortola . . . . .                | 48,864 8 4      |               | 27,010 1 4     |               |
| St. Croix . . . . .              | 10,584 1 2      |               | 882 7 2        |               |
| Martinique . . . . .             | 572 0 8         |               |                |               |
| St. Lucie . . . . .              | 629 13 9        |               |                |               |
| St. Martins . . . . .            |                 |               |                | 725 19 11     |
| St. Eustathius . . . . .         | 2,740 7 8       |               |                |               |
| Spanish West Indies . . . . .    | 15,611 8 3      |               | 7,995 4 5      |               |
| West Indies in general . . . . . |                 |               | 763 13 0       |               |
| Imp. and exp. of Eng. . . . .    | 12,073,956 0 11 |               | 13,844,511 1 8 |               |
| Imp. and exp. of Scot. . . . .   | 1,023,197 5 5   | 1,023,197 5 5 | 1,245,490 2 7  | 1,245,490 2 7 |
| Total, Great Britain . . . . .   | 13,097,153 6 4  |               | 15,090,001 4 3 |               |

1768, January 29<sup>th</sup>—The act for allowing the free importation of salted beef, pork, bacon, and butter, from Ireland, was continued; and the free importation of the same articles from the British American colonies was also allowed. [8 Geo. III, c. 9.]

February 23<sup>d</sup>—Though the affairs of the East-India company were in the most flourishing condition, and they were even making additions to their territories in India, they were again prohibited by parliament from making any dividend above *ten* per cent per annum, notwithstanding a strenuous opposition, not only from the company, but also from many members of both houses of parliament \*. [8 Geo. III, c. 11.]

It is a proof of the flourishing state of the commercial city of Glasgow, that its magistrates obtained from parliament powers to enable them to make several improvements in their streets, to build an exchange, and also a new bridge over the Clyde, and to levy a toll, or

\* On the same day that this act was passed, a treaty was concluded between the company's servants, in conjunction with the nabob of Arcot, and Aly Cawn nizam of the Deccan, against Hyder

Aly, a bold adventurer, who had lately acquired a considerable sovereignty in the southern parts of India, and was the constant enemy of the company.

pontage, upon it, till the expense of building it should be defrayed. [8 *Geo. III*, c. 16.]

March 8<sup>th</sup>—An act was passed for paving, cleaning, and lighting, the streets of London. The regulations for fixing the names of the streets on their corners were renewed (if not enforced), and regulations were made for the stands of hackney coaches, watering the streets where necessary, and for several other matters of police. [8 *Geo. III*, c. 21.]

The law, [4 *Geo. III*, c. 13] which prohibited the allowance of twelve per cent for leakage of wines, landed in Guernsey and Jersey previous to their importation into Great Britain, was repealed, and the former allowance for leakage granted under certain conditions. By the same act the encouragement for the manufacture of British sail-cloth was continued till 29<sup>th</sup> September 1774. [8 *Geo. III*, c. 23.]

The refuse of salt-works, called grey, or scrow, salt, was permitted to be used as manure on paying four pence duty for each bushel weighing 56 pounds.—Policies of insurance to the amount of above £1,000 were charged with two stamps of five shillings each.—Rum and spirits, the produce of the British sugar colonies, exported as merchandize from Britain, were entitled, after 25<sup>th</sup> March 1768, to draw back the custom, and be exempted from the excise duties, though they should be under the full proof. [8 *Geo. III*, c. 25.]

The bounties and encouragements held out to the whale fishery were continued till 25<sup>th</sup> December 1770. [8 *Geo. III*, c. 27.]

The commissioners of excise entered into an agreement with the corporation of London and the company of mercers for the purchase of Gresham college, in order to erect on the area of it a convenient building for accommodating the business of their office; which agreement was ratified by parliament. [8 *Geo. III*, c. 32.]

Several acts for improving roads, and several for making navigable canals, were passed in this session. Of the later the most important was the canal for uniting the rivers Forth and Clyde. [8 *Geo. III*, c. 63.]

The advantages of a navigable communication between the Forth and the Clyde were perceived so long ago as the reign of Charles II. That prince, who (perhaps by means of his residence in the Netherlands) appears to have acquired a just idea of the importance of inland navigation\*, proposed to have a canal executed on such a scale, that transports and small ships of war might pass upon it from sea to sea. But the expense, estimated at £500,000, was beyond the ability of the age.

\* Charles II ordered surveys of the depth of the River Thames, which was found to have decreased four feet during his own reign, and also of the encroachments upon it. In his reign an act was passed for improving the navigation of the River Medway, for the sake of carrying timber and naval stores to the dock-yards. [Campbell's Poli-

tical survey, V. i, pp. 175, 176.] In his reign also a bill was brought into parliament for uniting the Thames and the Severn by a canal from Lechlade on the former to the Avon, a navigable branch of the later. [Phillips's *Hist. of inland navigation*, p. 226, ed. 1795.]

About the time of the union the idea of a navigation across the narrowest part of the island was revived, as appears by some of the publications of that time; [*Campbell's Political survey*, V. i, p. 227] and it was again dropped. In the year 1723 it was resumed, and a survey was made for the purpose of executing the canal. But still it was, apparently, too early to engage in a work of such magnitude; and it again lay forgotten till the year 1762, when it was taken up by the prime minister, Mr. Pitt, who proposed, that it should be executed by the public, and on such a scale as to admit sea vessels of a moderate burthen: and Mr. Mackell was employed to make a survey and estimate for a canal from the mouth of the Carron on the Forth to the mouth of Yocker burn on the Clyde. A second survey and report was made by Mr. Smeaton in the year 1764; and the execution of this great public work was now left to private individuals. But the large amount of Mr. Smeaton's estimate induced some of those, who wished for the navigation, to drop the grand idea of a canal navigable by sea vessels from sea to sea, and adopt the notion of a petty ditch with only four feet depth of water, and to extend no farther west than Glasgow\*.

The act now passed incorporated the proprietors of the proposed canal, as usual, and authorized a supplemental cut to Glasgow. It also incorporated another set of proprietors for the purpose of executing an extension from the east end of the canal to Borrowstownness.

The work was immediately begun, and prosecuted with great spirit till the year 1775, when it had reached the neighbourhood of Glasgow; and then, the funds being all exhausted, a stop was put to it for some years. The inhabitants of Glasgow, however, very soon availed themselves of the proximity of the canal by making the supplemental cut to their city, whereby they immediately obtained a direct communication with the Forth and the German ocean; and the canal began to be useful to all the country adjacent to it, though in a degree far inferior to what it would be if completed. Yet even in this imperfect state of it the lockage dues amounted to from £4,000 to £7,000 a year.

\* While the various plans for the canal were under consideration, Mr. J. Gray in 1768 published *Reflections on inland navigation*, wherein he proposed to retain the natural courses of the Bonnie and the Carron on the east, and the Kelvin on the west, side of the country, thereby avoiding the separation of private property, and also all expense of tunnels, sluices, aqueducts, &c. as all small streams would be received into the canal. Instead of digging out a channel, he proposed, as I may say, to build a river, (as some of the canals in Holland are constructed) by raising parallel embankments 80 or 100 feet asunder (great part of which, he observes, is already done by nature) to contain the water of the rivers with a depth of twelve feet, and to make a kind of triple locks or dams, effected by two strong piers of stone work at proper distances. As an improvement, he proposed to set a mill [Why not two?] at each lock or dam, to be worked by the water falling from the upper part of it, and to give the custody of the locks to the millers, who should regulate the proper quantity of water, in order to prevent inundations, and guard against the formation of thick ice by varying the depth during frost. He estimated that a navigable communication between the two seas of fifteen feet depth of water, and even three hundred feet in breadth, (except at the locks, where it should be narrower) might be completed in this manner for £293,444, the sum estimated by Mr. Smeaton for a canal of twelve feet deep, and sixty-nine feet broad.

A further account of this great national undertaking will be given at the time of its completion.

The white people of the little colony of Montserrat were in imminent danger of being exterminated by their negroes on St. Patrick's day (17<sup>th</sup> March). But the conspiracy being providentially discovered by a woman, two ships of war and a small detachment of soldiers arrived from the neighbouring islands in time to prevent the execution of it.

It being an object of great importance to maintain a good correspondence with the American Indians, who ever since the peace of 1763 retained many of the prejudices instilled into them by the French against the British colonists, it was judged the most prudent measure to ascertain by mutual consent a boundary line, beyond which no British subject should presume to settle. This measure, calculated to remove the chief cause of the jealousy of the Indians, was so far carried into execution, that the boundaries of the two Carolinas were actually surveyed and marked out agreeable to treaties made by Mr. Stewart, superintendant of Indian affairs for the southern district, with the Creeks, Cherokees, and Chactaws: and the Indians of the northern district cheerfully pointed out a line, which Sir William Johnson, the superintendant, agreed to, provided it should be approved of by the king. In order to preserve tranquillity among the Indians, it was thought most expedient to continue the two superintendants, and to empower them to make the customary presents to the Indians.

On a full consideration of the circumstances of the Indian trade it appeared, that the confinement of the trade to particular posts, which was then the general principle of the trading system, was expedient and effectual with respect to the southern Indians, of doubtful policy with respect to those adjacent to the provinces of Pennsylvania and New York, and evidently hurtful and dangerous with respect to the vast body of Indians on the west side of the province of Quebec, the inhabitants of which carry on a very extensive commerce with them. Moreover the expense was so great, as, in a commercial view, to exceed considerably the object, to which it was subservient.

General Melville, governor-general of the Ceded islands, made a large botanic garden at St. Vincents for the reception and cultivation of all plants valuable in commerce and medicine, which were scarce, or not at all to be found, in the British West-India colonies; and by the great diligence of Doctor Young, surgeon of the military hospital and an excellent botanist, it was soon very considerably advanced\*.

\* In May 1772 Doctor Young had, among other valuable exotics, 140 healthy plants of the true cinnamon; for which, and his general botanic merit, the patriotic society of arts and sciences with great propriety presented him with a gold medal.

The garden still continues to flourish under the care of Doctor Anderson, another eminent botanist, and by the still-continued good offices of General Melville, its original founder.

This public-spirited example, set by General Melville, has since been followed in several of the other West-India islands.

In the beginning of April the coal trade was interrupted by combinations of the sailors and keelmen at Shields and Sunderland, who demanded an increase of wages. About the same time the delivery of the coal ships in the Thames was put a stop to by the combinations and riots of the coal-heavers, who, thinking themselves injured by a set of people called undertakers, who, they alleged, paid them their wages, not in money, but in liquor and goods of bad quality, would neither work themselves for some time, nor allow the sailors belonging to the ships to discharge them. In the course of these riots some lives were lost.

Soon after this the sailors in the Thames also made a demand for more wages, for which purpose they presented a petition to parliament and another to the king; and for some time they allowed no vessels to sail from the river.

Sir Stephen Theodore Janssen (who has already been deservedly mentioned with honour) conferred an essential benefit on the public, and more especially on the poorer classes of the community, by establishing premiums to the mackerel fishers for coming up with their boats to market; in consequence of which fine large mackerels were sold for three halfpence each, which lowered the price of butcher meat one penny a pound.

A claim was set up by Daniel Coxe of New Jersey and others, the descendants of Doctor Daniel Coxe, who in the year 1696 had purchased the titles of a most extensive grant made by King Charles II to Sir Robert Heath of all the lands in America between the latitudes of  $31^{\circ}$  and  $36^{\circ}$  north, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, together with the islands of Veanis\* and Bahama, and all other islands near thereto, and lying southward of the continent†; which territory was called Carolana. The claimants requested either to be confirmed in the possession of the territories, and exercise of the powers, granted to Sir Robert Heath, or to be paid a proper compensation for surrendering their titles into the king's hands. When this affair came to be considered by the lords of trade and plantations, it was concluded, that the claimants, in consideration of surrendering all pretensions to their long-neglected grant, should receive 40,000 acres of unoccupied land in the interior part of the province of New-York.

Mr. Frazer, the consul at Algier, transmitted a very circumstantial account of the commerce of that place, similar to what he gave last year of the trade of Tripoli, as follows.

\* Perhaps Bimini, the island supposed by the Spaniards to contain the fountain of immortality.

† This description, in the hands of a powerful argumentator, might be made to comprehend all the West-India islands.



| Algier exports to  | Zechins. | Algier imports from  | Zechins. |
|--|----------|--|----------|
| <i>Alexandria</i> , in cash  | 60,000   | <i>Alexandria</i> , in rice, coffee,<br>linen, and cotton goods,                                     | 60,000   |
| <i>Smyrna</i> , negroes 3,000 }<br>blankets 1,500 }<br>bullion 5,500 } | 10,000   | <i>Smyrna</i> , cotton, cotton goods,<br>drugs, iron, brads, silk,                                   | 10,000   |
| <i>Leghorn</i> , wool, ostrich feathers, wax, hides, &c.               | 16,500   | <i>Leghorn</i> , British wool-lens,  | 3,500    |
| The balance in bills or prize goods                                    |          | Venetian cloths, cutlery, silks, linens, glass, spices,  | 26,000   |
| <i>Marseille</i> , wool, 10,000 }<br>wax, hides, &c. 11,500 }          | 21,500   | <i>Marseille</i> , iron, - 10,000 }<br>sugar, coffee, silks, woollens, paper, }<br>linens, spices, } | 40,000   |

There were no British merchants; and in the imports there were very few British goods. There were three French houses, branches of houses at Marseille.

The consul at Coruña reported, that since the last war no British merchants had settled there; and that the removal of the English packets from that place had thrown such difficulties in the way of making remittances, that the neighbouring country was now mostly supplied with French manufactures, to the great regret of the natives, who all prefer English goods. The British vessels arriving in his department were only about 14 annually with cod from Newfoundland, 3 or 4 with salted provisions from Ireland, and a few with corn, coals, &c. from other ports.

In a subsequent report he more particularly states, that from 25<sup>th</sup> December 1767 to 24<sup>th</sup> June 1768 only 7 British vessels from Newfoundland, London, Cork, and Virginia, had arrived in the provinces of Galicia and Asturias, most of which had only landed small parcels of goods there. During the same time 11 French and 5 Dutch vessels delivered their full cargoes in the same district, the Dutch having increased since the packets to the Havana and Buenos Ayres were stationed at Coruña, while the English remained the same as before.

The British consul and merchants at Cadiz complained of the hardships put upon them by several infringements of the treaties, and particularly by the *postura*, an order of the magistrates for fixing the prices of provisions, whereby they apprehended the trade from Ireland and Newfoundland to that port must be ruined. They, and the consul at St. Lucar also complained of a proclamation prohibiting the importation of all printed and painted cloths and handkerchiefs, the demand for which in the Spanish colonies used to be very considerable. They also complained of the exactions of the health-office, of the indignities

put upon the commanders of their ships, the partiality shewn to the French, and the arbitrary power of the governors and magistrates of Cadiz, who were ignorant of the treaties, and had not even any instructions to regard them.

The directors of the East-India company, being determined to prevent the sale of the command of their ships, resolved that after 25<sup>th</sup> March 1769 all their commanders should be chosen by ballot out of persons, who have already commanded ships, or at least performed one voyage to India as chief or second mate in their service. They also resolved, that after the same time no ships should be built for their service without leave obtained from the court of directors.

In all the measures taken in opposition to government in America the people of Boston constantly took the lead. Their resolutions of last October were followed in February by an official circular letter from the assembly of Massachusetts bay to all the other assemblies in British America, proposing a strict union of all the colonies in opposing by all legal means the operation of the late acts of parliament, and recommending harmony in their applications to government for the repeal of them. The minds of the people of Boston were much exasperated by the seizure of a sloop, belonging to one of the representatives of that city, by the officers of the customs, who, to escape from the outrages of the people, were obliged to take shelter onboard a ship of war, from which they removed to Castle William, situated on a small island in the harbour; and there they established the custom-house. The dissolution of the assembly by the governor added fuel to the flame, and paved the way for a convention of representatives, elected by the people, and assembled without any authority from government, who, however, professing themselves to be only a meeting of private persons, earnestly requested the governor to call together a constitutional assembly. The governor refused to receive their message, and warned them to disperse; but they, nevertheless, continued their meetings for several days. The day of their breaking up was distinguished by the unwelcome arrival of a fleet of ships of war from Halifax, with two regiments of soldiers and a detachment of artillery, who were quartered in Boston. In a short time after two more regiments arrived from Ireland, as also General Gage, who was appointed commander in chief of the forces.

Previous to the meeting of the convention the merchants and traders of Boston had entered into a new resolution against importing any British goods from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1769 to 1<sup>st</sup> January 1770, except salt, coals, fish hooks and lines, hemp and duck, bar lead and shot, wool cards and card wire. And they more especially resolved not to import any tea, paper, glass, or colours, till the duties on them should be repealed. A similar agreement was entered into by the traders of New-York.

Throughout the month of October the following premiums were given to such boats as should deliver at Billingsgate in one tide, not less

than three lasts of herrings, caught within forty-eight hours, at the rate of £12:10:0 per last, or about a farthing a piece, viz. the first boat £37:10:0; the second £30; and the third £22:10:0.

The king by additional instructions (dated 6<sup>th</sup> October 1768) to General Melville, governor-general of the ceded islands, confirmed the constitutions he had drawn up for the several islands, or divisions of his government, viz. Grenada with the Grenadines, Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago. In these instructions the king observed, that justice and sound policy required, that the new subjects (formerly subjects of France) remaining in Grenada and the Grenadines, and having liberty to profess the Roman-Catholic religion on the faith of the treaty of peace, should be admitted to a limited proportion of the executive and legislative offices of government: and he therefor directed, that a number of them, not exceeding two in the council, three in the assembly, one as an assistant judge, and one in each town and parish or district as a justice of peace, might be chosen and admitted to exercise the functions of such offices in Grenada and the Grenadines, without being obliged to take any other oaths than those of allegiance, supremacy, and abjuration, together with those for the due administration of office.

General Melville this year sent home very flattering accounts of the prospect of flourishing settlements in Tobago, an island, which, when he entered upon his government, was one entire wood.

November 18<sup>th</sup>—The king instituted the royal academy of arts, consisting of painters, statuarys, architects, &c. and allotted them a house in Pall-mall for holding their meetings, for the accommodation of the students, and for their annual exhibition of paintings and other works of art. This institution has been of great service in promoting the study of the fine arts, and also a taste for them, in this country.

December 20<sup>th</sup>—The powers possessed by the officers of the customs to seize horses, carriages, &c. employed in carrying smuggled foreign spirits, were extended to the officers of the excise. [9 *Geo. III.* c. 6.]

Funds were appropriated by parliament for improving and preserving the harbour of Wells in Norfolk. [9 *Geo. III.* c. 8.]

Governor Palliser's report of the Newfoundland fishery for this year represents the number of vessels employed, and the quantity of fish, &c. as somewhat larger than in preceding years. In the salmon particularly there was a very great increase, the quantity shipped for foreign markets, being no less than 40,386 tierces. The trade and fishery carried on by the American colonists was nearly the same as last year, with this difference, that their whalers in the Gulf of St. Laurence were so unsuccessful as to get only three whales.

The season being very stormy, about thirty ships and a great number of shalops were wrecked, and between four and five hundred men were lost.

The French this year employed in the fishery on the coast of Newfoundland 109 vessels of the burthen of 17,125 tuns, and carrying

7,351 men, who made 214,100 quintals of fish and 3,198 hogsheds of oil. Their fishers on the banks, from the best accounts, might be rated at 225 vessels of 100 tons and 20 men each; and their captures were estimated at 4,500,000 quintals of fish and 900 hogsheds of oil. Their fishery on the coasts of St. Pierre, and Miquelon, and in the Gulf of St. Laurence, from the best accounts, employed the same number of vessels as last year, viz. 70 vessels of about 50 tons and 18 men each on an average, who were supposed to make 42,500 quintals of fish and 458 hogsheds of oil. Their traders from the West-India islands this year were only about four small vessels, their disappointment in the expected sales of their rum and melasses among our people at Newfoundland having induced most of them to give up the trade.

Sixteen French boats were seized this year by the vessels under Governor Palliser's command for fishing beyond their limits.

By the erection of larger and more powerful fire engines the coal mines now began to be worked with greater advantage. One of them set up at Tinemouth-moor colliery was estimated to raise a thousand hogsheds of water in an hour from the depth of seventy feet \*.

An improved pump for ships was invented by Mr. Cole, and on trial at Portsmouth was found to be less cumbersome, easier worked, easier cleared when choaked, and much more powerful, than the chain pump.

Mr. William Gilchrist, a millwright in Jamaica, invented a new mill for grinding sugar canes, having the side rollers larger than the middle, or main, roller. The legislature of Jamaica in December 1768 passed an act for securing to him the exclusive benefit of his invention for fourteen years, and Mr. Gilchrist afterwards petitioned the king for a patent for all the other West-India islands.

A letter from the governor of Cape-coast castle on the coast of Africa to his constituents, the committee of merchants trading to Africa, (dated 30<sup>th</sup> December 1768) complains of the Dutch commander at Elmina having seized and otherways maltreated several Portuguese vessels for selling Brasil tobacco to the English settlements.

The number of negroes purchased by the Europeans in the course of this year on the coast of Africa, between Cape Blanco and Rio Congo, was stated as follows.

|   |   |   |        |          |
|---|---|---|--------|----------|
| By British vessels                              | - | - | 53,100 | } 59,400 |
| British Americans                               | - | - | 6,300  |          |
| French  | - | - | -      | 23,520   |
| Dutch   | - | - | -      | 11,300   |
| Portuguese                                      | - | - | -      | 1,700    |
| Denmark   | - | - | -      | 1,200    |
| Total natives of Africa carried off in one year |   |   |        | 97,100   |

\* These engines were afterwards eclipsed, and in many places superseded, by the vastly more powerful steam engines as improved by Messrs. Boulton and Watt.

The imports at Hamburgh from Great Britain, Ireland, and the British West-Indies, this year amounted to £1,169,170 sterling; and those from France to 993,318

There arrived at that port this year from the British dominions 254 vessels, whereof 20 were British; from France 160 vessels, whereof 9 were British, 79 Dutch, and only 2 French; from Spain 43 vessels, whereof 21 were British; from Portugal and Italy 57 vessels, whereof 22 were British; and from the northern kingdoms 176 vessels, whereof 8 were British.

The number of vessels cleared out at Newcastle this year exceeded that of the year 1767 by 453, the number last year being 3,720, and this year, 4,173, whereof 3,728 were coasters, and 445 for foreign countries.

Of 124 ships sent out by the Dutch to the Greenland whale fishery, 5 were lost in the ice; and the remaining 119 caught 390 whales.

This year the white inhabitants of Jamaica were estimated to be 17,000; there were 166,914 negroes on the tax-roll, and 135,773 head of cattle. The exports of the island were as follows.

| To                            | Sugar, hhds.<br>16 cwt. each. | Rum,<br>punchons<br>110 gallons each. | Melasses,<br>gallons. | Pimento,<br>bags 100 lbs. | Ginger,<br>bags 70 lbs. | Cotton,<br>bags 200 lbs. | Coffee,<br>bags 100 lbs. | Ebony, Fustick,<br>Logwood,<br>Lignum-vitæ,<br>Nicaragua wood,<br>tuns. | Mahogany,<br>feet. | Hides. |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------|--------|
| Great Britain<br>and Ireland. | 54,181                        | 11,127                                |                       | 13,116                    | 2,551                   | 2,211                    | 1,491                    | 4,181   | 443,920            |        |
| North<br>America.             | 1,580                         | 4,424                                 | 201,960               | 738                       | 620                     | 252                      | 2,712                    |   | 424,080            | 2,287  |
| Totals                        | 55,761                        | 15,551                                | 201,960               | 13,854                    | 3,171                   | 2,463                    | 4,203                    | 4,181   | 868,000            | 2,287  |

besides miscellaneous articles, which cannot be reckoned.

The whole value of the exports of this year could not be less than £1,400,000 sterling.

There belonged this year to all the ports  
of England 7,511 vessels of the reputed burthen of 549,191 tons,  
and of Scotland 1,498 - - - 85,898

Total - 9,009 - - - 635,089

The net amount of the customs, including the West-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the course of this year, was, from the custom-house in London - £2,431,916 2 6  
and from the custom-house in Edinburgh - 13,100 0 0

Total net revenue of the customs in Great Britain £2,445,016 2 6

There were coined at the mint in the course of the year  
18,075 pounds of gold, value = = £844,554 7 6  
and no silver.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain, from Christmas 1767 to Christmas 1768, was as follows.

| Countries, &c.            | Imported into |       |           |       | Exported from |       |           |       |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------|-----------|-------|---------------|-------|-----------|-------|
|                           | ENGLAND.      |       | SCOTLAND. |       | ENGLAND.      |       | SCOTLAND. |       |
| Africa                    | £67,249       | 1 4   |           |       | £612,392      | 9 8   | £734      | 1 0   |
| Canaries                  | 4,785         | 5 5   |           |       | 39,840        | 19 5  |           |       |
| Denmark and Norway        | 79,043        | 15 5  | £29,080   | 0 1   | 178,041       | 7 10  | 17,803    | 19 6  |
| East country              | 318,840       | 13 4  |           |       | 124,121       | 5 3   |           |       |
| East-India                | 1,507,963     | 0 2   |           |       | 1,156,082     | 16 8  |           |       |
| Flanders                  | 118,595       | 16 5  | 14        | 8 0   | 608,258       | 9 1   | 55,914    | 11 3  |
| France                    | 133,100       | 7 3   | 2,496     | 0 4   | 271,828       | 15 7  | 337,357   | 4 0   |
| Germany                   | 689,562       | 17 9  | 19,742    | 2 3   | 1,499,732     | 0 4   | 55,353    | 4 5   |
| Greenland                 | 12,483        | 15 6  |           |       | 63            | 12 0  |           |       |
| Holland                   | 455,814       | 4 9   | 104,737   | 12 7  | 1,744,974     | 5 8   | 300,294   | 7 11  |
| Ireland                   | 1,226,094     | 0 3   | 277,146   | 7 3   | 2,248,315     | 6 5   | 383,060   | 9 7   |
| Mann                      |               |       | 359       | 2 0   |               |       | 180       | 6 0   |
| Italy                     | 673,915       | 11 5  | 3,024     | 6 6   | 781,350       | 11 11 | 12,182    | 10 9  |
| Madeira                   | 3,864         | 16 8  | 543       | 12 7  | 25,588        | 6 3   | 334       | 12 3  |
| Poland                    |               |       | 25,730    | 1 3   | 711,908       | 4 4   | 3,313     | 3 9   |
| Portugal                  | 391,502       | 3 8   | 15,679    | 10 0  | 711,908       | 4 4   | 481       | 8 0   |
| Prussia                   |               |       | 19,358    | 4 9   |               |       | 303       | 5 9   |
| Russia                    | 934,817       | 13 6  | 104,709   | 7 3   | 126,569       | 14 4  | 363       | 3 6   |
| Spain                     | 472,045       | 2 6   | 9,667     | 14 10 | 1,076,005     | 7 10  | 11,559    | 2 8   |
| Gibraltar                 |               |       | 40        | 0 0   |               |       | 682       | 1 11  |
| Straits                   | 12,212        | 18 6  |           |       | 91,005        | 18 2  |           |       |
| Sweden                    | 204,278       | 17 2  | 20,664    | 19 11 | 56,352        | 19 7  | 5,610     | 15 10 |
| Turkey                    | 103,679       | 19 4  |           |       | 109,194       | 7 8   |           |       |
| Venice                    | 78,209        | 6 4   |           |       | 41,294        | 17 8  |           |       |
| Guernsey, &c.             | 36,287        | 8 0   | 3,010     | 9 0   | 47,456        | 1 9   |           |       |
| Hudson's bay              | 8,008         | 7 6   |           |       | 5,500         | 13 9  |           |       |
| Newfoundland              | 48,357        | 0 6   | 2,198     | 17 8  | 46,761        | 2 1   | 796       | 4 9   |
| Quebec                    | 37,162        | 6 4   | 742       | 6 0   | 110,598       | 12 5  | 3,116     | 8 1   |
| Nova-Scotia               | 1,247         | 2 6   |           |       | 19,571        | 12 10 |           |       |
| New-England               | 148,375       | 3 6   | 9,429     | 3 9   | 419,797       | 9 4   | 11,009    | 12 8  |
| New-York                  | 87,115        | 5 10  | 4,694     | 5 9   | 482,930       | 14 4  | 7,743     | 7 3   |
| Pennsylvania              | 59,406        | 8 5   | 2,264     | 15 1  | 432,107       | 17 4  | 9,722     | 6 5   |
| Maryland                  | 406,048       | 13 11 | 97,241    | 12 7  | 475,954       | 6 2   | 40,773    | 5 8   |
| Virginia                  |               |       | 273,364   | 5 0   |               |       | 152,795   | 1 9   |
| North Carolina            | 508,108       | 6 10  | 8,707     | 10 10 | 289,868       | 12 3  | 6,329     | 1 8   |
| South Carolina            |               |       | 9,426     | 6 4   |               |       | 4,727     | 11 0  |
| Georgia                   | 42,402        | 13 10 |           |       | 56,562        | 13 5  |           |       |
| Florida                   | 14,078        | 6 3   |           |       | 32,572        | 0 7   |           |       |
| Antigua                   | 330,013       | 9 4   | 63,609    | 2 4   | 132,139       | 9 6   | 13,895    | 1 4   |
| Anguilla                  | 6,607         | 12 1  |           |       |               |       |           |       |
| Barbados                  | 281,461       | 3 8   | 14,021    | 6 3   | 191,601       | 17 7  | 1,761     | 10 2  |
| Bermuda                   | 829           | 8 0   |           |       | 10,526        | 9 11  |           |       |
| Dominica                  | 203,828       | 14 8  |           |       | 18,411        | 3 1   |           |       |
| Grenada                   | 376,940       | 12 2  | 18,780    | 2 0   | 120,419       | 18 2  | 5,657     | 12 2  |
| Jamaica                   | 1,215,628     | 19 9  | 69,458    | 3 1   | 473,146       | 13 3  | 29,129    | 19 3  |
| Montserrat                | 69,563        | 11 3  | 3,430     | 8 4   | 25,572        | 5 10  | 3,308     | 10 9  |
| Nevis                     | 71,144        | 17 10 |           |       | 15,874        | 0 3   |           |       |
| New-Providence            | 2,523         | 6 4   |           |       | 6,752         | 13 9  |           |       |
| St. Christophers          | 301,328       | 15 6  | 24,197    | 14 1  | 143,739       | 0 7   | 24,859    | 18 4  |
| St. Vincents              | 35,762        | 6 8   |           |       | 24,553        | 13 4  |           |       |
| Tobago                    |               |       |           |       | 485           | 0 2   |           |       |
| Tortola                   | 50,443        | 19 10 |           |       | 17,746        | 0 9   |           |       |
| St. Croix                 | 12,383        | 19 4  | 49        | 14 11 | 6,387         | 4 4   |           |       |
| St. Thomas                | 19            | 5 0   |           |       |               |       |           |       |
| St. Lucia                 | 891           | 3 0   |           |       |               |       |           |       |
| St. Martins               |               |       |           |       |               |       | 995       | 10 9  |
| Spanish West-Indies       | 34,633        | 8 1   |           |       | 4,694         | 18 0  |           |       |
| West-Indies in general    |               |       |           |       | 3,328         | 15 8  |           |       |
| Imp. and exp. of England  | 11,878,061    | 2 7   |           |       | 15,117,982    | 16 1  |           |       |
| Imp. and exp. of Scotland | 1,237,619     | 12 7  | 1,237,619 | 12 7  | 1,502,149     | 10 1  | 1,502,149 | 10 1  |
| Total, Great Britain,     | 13,116,280    | 15 2  |           |       | 16,620,132    | 6 2   |           |       |



1769—Mr. Bougainville, who in November 1766 had sailed by order of the king of France on a voyage of discovery, arrived at St Malos (14<sup>th</sup> March), after having made a small settlement at Falkland's islands, (called by the French les Malouines); and made a circuit of the globe, in the course of which he discovered many islands hitherto unknown.

March—The mines in the neighbourhood of Newcastle were now so judiciously managed as to be very productive of the pretious metals. As a proof of this, a mass of silver weighing 311 pounds, and another of pure gold weighing 18 pounds, were delivered from a refinery near that town.

As the time was near at hand, when the annual payment of £400,000 to government by the East-India company, and also the parliamentary restriction of the dividends, would expire, the company, plainly perceiving, that the large sum exacted from them would thenceforth be considered by administration as a part of the regular revenue, were now only desirous of being gratified with some compensation for, what they deemed, so great a sacrifice. They therefor requested of government to prolong their charter for five years; but it was absolutely refused, and the company were more than ever made sensible, that they were entirely in the hands of a superior power, to whose will there was a necessity of submitting. After holding several general courts, and much correspondence between administration and the company, the following agreement was confirmed by parliament.

April 20<sup>th</sup>—The East-India company became bound to pay to the public £400,000 annually for five years to come. They were permitted to increase their dividends, at a rate not exceeding *One per cent* each year, till they should be raised to *Twelve and a half per cent*, which they must never exceed. Should the company, instead of increasing, be obliged to reduce, their dividends, a proportional deduction was to be made from the sum payable to government, which was to be entirely given up, if the company should be obliged to reduce their dividends to *Six per cent*. During the five years the company were obliged to export British goods equal in value to the average amount of those they exported in the last five years. And if any cash should remain in their treasury, after the payment of certain specified debts, they were bound to lend it to the public at the interest of two per cent. [9 Geo. III. c. 24.]

The act for encouraging the coinage of money was made perpetual. [9 Geo. III. c. 25.]

The permission to carry rice from the two Carolinas and Georgia to any places south of them, and to places in Europe south of Cape Finisterre, was prolonged to 24<sup>th</sup> June 1774. [9 Geo. III, c. 27.]

May 1<sup>st</sup>—In consequence of the petition of the merchants of Jersey and Guernsey concerned in the Newfoundland fishery, they were permitted to export from their islands to Newfoundland or the British colonies in

America all goods of the growth or manufacture of Great Britain necessary for the fishery, under certain restrictions, and to import to those islands any non-enumerated goods, except rum. [9 *Geo. III*, c. 28.]

Burning mills, and destroying or damaging engines for draining any kind of mines, or the waggon-ways, bridges, trunks, staithes, &c. or fences belonging to any mine, were made felony without benefit of clergy. [9 *Geo. III*, c. 29.]

The encouragement hitherto held out to the cultivators of silk in the southern American colonies, by purchasing the cocoons for government at a price above their value, having been found to effect no considerable exertions in the production of that article, it was now determined, that the encouragement should be in the form of a bounty upon the importation of silk produced in America into Great Britain in vessels legally navigated, as follows.

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| from 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan. 1770 to 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan. 1777     | a premium of 25 per cent, |
| from 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan. 1777 to 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan. 1784     | 20 per cent,              |
| and from 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan. 1784 to 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan. 1791 | 15 per cent,              |

on the value of the silk. [9 *Geo. III*, c. 38.]

The importation of raw hides and skins from Ireland and the British colonies in America free of duty was permitted for five years; and the duty upon seal skins, tanned or tawed, was altered to three halfpence a pound, of which one penny to be drawn back upon exportation. [9 *Geo. III*, c. 39.]

The mode of paying the prizes in the lottery was this year altered. Instead of giving the proprietors of the fortunate tickets annuities in the funds proportioned to the sum of their prizes, government now engaged to pay the value in cash. Instead of limiting the highest prize to £10,000, one or two prizes of £20,000, and several of £10,000, were now introduced\*.

The East-India company lost no time in availing themselves of the permission contained in the late act to augment their dividend one per cent; and their dividend for July was accordingly paid at the rate of eleven per cent.

July 10<sup>th</sup>—The island of St. John in the Gulf of St. Laurence was detached from the government of Nova-Scotia; and the king appointed Walter Paterson Esquire to be the first governor of it. Settlers had begun to resort to this island the preceding summer; a town plot was laid out; and great hopes were entertained of the prosperity of the colony.

General Carlton, governor of Quebec, sent home a report of the manufactures in his provinces, which consisted of the following articles.

\* Succeeding lotteries have had one, and frequently even two, prizes of £30,000; and in general it has been the policy of the lottery schemes to throw the most of the money into great prizes,

in order to hold out temptations to avarice, and to enlarge the chance of rich prizes remaining in the wheel till late in the drawing.

A considerable quantity of coarse linen made for private use from flax raised in the country.

Some worsted stockings knit by the women, and some linsy-woolsey stuffs.

A coarse kind of earthen ware for milk pans, &c.

Some leather, very indifferently tanned with hemlock-spruce, for making mocassins (a kind of shoes), for which purpose large quantities of American tanned leather are imported from the other colonies, the British leather being too strong, and too dear.

About 400,000 pounds of bar iron, made at the forges of St. Maurice.

Iron ware for the most common uses, and also edge tools, axes, and hatchets, for the consumption of the country, and for the Indians.

Pearl-ash and pot-ash were made for about two years preceding this time, but hitherto with little success. With proper encouragement they might become important articles of commerce, as might also hemp and flax.

A distillery of rum from melasses, newly established at Quebec, was expected to save considerable sums, hitherto sent to New-England and New-York, and also to introduce a direct trade with the West-Indies.

Such were the manufactures of this province; far beneath the jealousy of British manufacturers. But in the discontented provinces they were much more considerable\*.

August 17<sup>th</sup>—The flourishing island of Antigua was greatly distressed by a fire, which almost reduced to ashes the town of St. John's, the capital. The damage was estimated at £400,000.

The East-India company had now been for some time engaged in a harassing and expensive war with Hyder Aly, a soldier of fortune, who by superior talents, and the assistance of European officers in disciplining his armies, had raised himself from a low station to be the sovereign of a great and rich territory in the south part of India. The company's servants in India were charged with having wantonly rushed into this war to serve their own private ends, to the disgrace of the British name, and the ruin of the interest of their employers committed to their charge; and they were moreover said to have conducted it more like a lucrative job than a regular system of warfare. General Smith's hands being tied up by this plan of misconduct, Hyder, by a judicious and rapid movement, entered the territories of the nabob of Arcot, the faithful ally of the company; and, after pouring out his vengeance against him, he presented himself in great force within seven miles of Madras, whereby he was enabled to dictate the terms of a peace to the government of that presidency, and to compell them to lay their

\* A more general account of American manufactures will be given under the year 1775.

commands on General Smith to desist from pursuing the advantages he was ready to reap by Hyder's absence from his capital.

The war with Hyder having exhausted the treasury of the presidency of Madras, remittances were made to it from Bengal, for which they were obliged to have recourse to a base species of gold coin, on the exchange of which the company lost £40,000. A total stop was put to the investments, which used to be made from Madras to China: and the manufacturers of the country were ruined by the ravages of the enemy, or at a stand for want of sale. Such were the effects of this war upon the company's affairs in India. At home the alarm excited by the rumour of the distant evil operated so powerfully upon the imagination and the fears of the stock-holders, that India stock fell above 60 per cent in a few days, though the directors published the dispatches they had just received from India, whereby it appeared, that the company's affairs in that part of the world were in general in a flourishing state, and that there was no reason to apprehend any ruinous consequences from the war with Hyder.

The directors, however, were fully sensible, that it was absolutely necessary to take some vigorous steps to correct the abuses; which were too evident in the conduct of their servants in India; and they determined upon sending out as supervisors three gentlemen of acknowledged ability, character, and experience, in the affairs of India, and to invest them with ample powers to redress the evils, and controul the abuses, which existed in that country.

As to the necessity of such a measure there was no doubt or dispute, except with the friends of those who were supposed liable to suffer by a reform in India: but there were great differences of opinion respecting the degree of power proper to be delegated to the supervisors. When, after very keen disputes, this matter was at last settled by the court of proprietors, government unexpectedly interfered with a demand that an officer commissioned from the crown should have a principal share in the direction of the company's affairs in India; the consequence of which was supposed by the company nothing short of a complete surrender of their territorial acquisitions into the hands of the ministry, than which, it was argued, it would be far better to resign them to the princes of the country, who in return would give the company terms of the greatest advantage to their commerce. The company thought the government ought to be content with receiving from them annually a sum, exceeding the whole dividends paid to all the proprietors, and exceeding the revenues of many sovereign princes, without attempting to set up a jarring authority, which must infallibly involve them in ruin. At length the contest between government and the company was in a great measure got rid of by the former sending out a naval officer with extraordinary powers, the operation of which was confined to the

Gulf of Persia, where the company had some petty disputes with a few turbulent chiefs on the coasts. Afterwards the powers to be vested in Messieurs Vansittart, Scrafton, and Ford, as supervisors, were finally adjusted; and government appointed two frigates to conduct them to India\*.

The flourishing and improved state of the company's commerce was made evident from a comparative examination of their exports, whereby it appeared, that the manufactures, products, stores, &c. shipped by them in the seven years ending with 29<sup>th</sup> September 1769 had exceeded those of the seven preceding years by the sum of £959,379 : 4 : 11; and that the gold and silver exported in the same space of time were less by £1,374,591 : 7 : 6; that in the year 1767 there was only £946 : 5 : 4, and in 1768 *none at all*, the great remittances from Bengal and Madras having been sufficient, with the goods carried from England to China, for the investments from that empire. The accounts of a scarcity of silver in Bengal, and the uncertainty how far that presidency might be enabled by the territorial revenue to send supplies to China, induced the company in 1769 to ship silver to the amount of £162,137 : 18 : 0 to China.

October—The discontents of the journeymen silk-weavers were frequently breaking out in combinations for raising their wages, and for imposing taxes upon their brethren to support them in idleness and in their acts of violence upon the property of their employers, whose looms, together with the goods in them, they frequently destroyed, in defiance of the law, which punishes such enormities by death. Their riots were at length suppressed, but not without bloodshed, several of themselves, and some of the soldiers, being killed in the skirmishes.

An account of the exports of the province of South Carolina from 1<sup>st</sup> November 1768 to 1<sup>st</sup> November 1769 was sent home by Lieutenant-governor Bull. They amounted to £404,056 sterling, whereof there was shipped for Great Britain to the amount of

|                                   |   |   |          |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|----------|
| Portugal, 24,264 barrels of rice, | - | - | £260,504 |
| Spain, 5,046 do.                  | - | - | 11,353   |

The chief articles of the exports, with their prices in Charlestown, were as follows.

|                |   |                    |        |   | Sterling:    |
|----------------|---|--------------------|--------|---|--------------|
| Rice           | - | 123,317 barrels at | £2 5 0 | - | £277,463 5 0 |
| Butter         | - | 789 firkins        | 2 2 6  | - | 1,676 12 6   |
| Pitch          | - | 6,106 barrels      | 0 7 0  | - | 2,137 2 0    |
| Turpentine     | - | 4,616 ———          | 0 12 0 | - | 2,769 12 0   |
| Tanned leather | - | 2,413 fides        | 1 12 0 | - | 3,860 16 0   |
| Pork           | - | 2,179 barrels      | 0 17 0 | - | 1,852 3 0    |

\* The Aurora frigate, onboard which these gentlemen were, was unhappily lost, and it was never known where or how they perished.

|                   |   |                |        |          |        |    |   |
|-------------------|---|----------------|--------|----------|--------|----|---|
| Tobacco           | - | 214,210 pounds | o 15 o | per cwt. | 1,606  | 6  | 6 |
| Indigo            | - | 380,570        | o 3 6  |          | 66,599 | 15 | o |
| Hemp              | - | 290,095        | 1 3 o  | per cwt. | 3,336  | 2  | 6 |
| Indian corn       | - | 65,751 bushels | o 2 o  |          | 6,575  | 2  | o |
| Peas              | - | 11,680         | o 2 o  |          | 1,168  | o  | o |
| Flour             | - | 2,754 barrels  | 1 17 6 |          | 5,163  | 15 | o |
| Ship bread        | - | 898            | 1 6 o  |          | 1,167  | 14 | o |
| Staves            | - | 229,500        | 5 o o  | per M.   | 1,147  | 10 | o |
| Planks and boards | - | 678,350 feet   | o 7 o  | per C.   | 2,374  | 4  | 6 |
| Shingles          | - | 1,987,000      | o 14 6 | per M.   | 1,440  | 11 | 6 |
| Deer skins        | - | 184,221 pounds | o 2 o  |          | 18,422 | 2  | o |
| Raw silk          | - | 1,014          | 1 o 6  |          | 1,039  | 7  | o |

Besides these there were a variety of other articles, none of which amounted to £1000 sterling\*.

The Turks islands used to be resorted to in the proper season by people from Jamaica and Bermuda for raking (or collecting) the salt, the only produce of those islands; and vessels from North America used to call there with money and provisions to purchase cargoes of salt and no other trade was carried on there.

But after the establishment of an agent some people from Bermuda settled on the islands, and took upon them by regulations of their own to exclude all others from the benefit of the salt-ponds. The Turks islands soon became not merely a port for the salt trade, but also an entre-port, where vessels from the northern colonies, St. Eustathius, Curaçoa, Hispaniola, and Cuba, met, and, as there was no custom-house, carried on an uncontrouled trade in their several commodities and the manufactures of their respective mother countries, and also carried off the rough materials of manufactures produced in the Bahama islands (which were illegally carried to that rendezvous), to the great prejudice of the revenue and fair trade of Great Britain.

Such was the report made to the governor of the Bahama islands by Mr. Brown, an old officer of the government at New-Providence. The report of the arrivals of vessels made by Mr. Symer, the agent for Turks islands, has only seven from Boston and one from Piscataqua, loaded with lumber, fish, spermaceti candles, beef, pork, onions, potatoes, &c. † But it appears by his list of arrivals from 2<sup>d</sup> March to 15<sup>th</sup> November 1769, that 110 vessels came to the islands in that time from various parts of America ‡ and the West-India islands, foreign as well as British, which carried on a free and uncontrouled trade in British and fo-

\* Among these there were 39 barrels of bitter-sweet oranges, (a species now neglected) and 100 gallons of orange juice.

† If Mr. Brown's account of the trade is correct, the illicit arrivals of the foreign vessels had hitherto been suppressed in the agent's report.

‡ It is worthy of being noted, that, even at this time, one of these vessels was named *The free American*.



reign produce and manufactures, as well as salt, whereby it was apprehended that the Americans might be enabled to persist in their agreements against importing British goods, as they could easily be supplied through this channel with the manufactures of other countries; and it was observed, on a visit to Turks islands by the governor of the Bahama islands, that the people there were generally dressed in French manufactures.

The linen exported from Dublin, which in the year 1768 amounted to 18,490,195 yards, was this year only 17,790,705.

The report of Mr. Swallow, the British consul at Petersburg, for this year shows, that the general trade of that place was increasing, and that the British trade thither, employing this year 322 vessels, was considerably more than the whole trade of all other nations at that port \*.

In the course of this year the goods imported into Hamburgh from Great Britain, Ireland, and the British West-Indies, in 216 vessels, whereof 178 were British, amounted in value to £949,074 5 0 sterling, And the imports at the same city from the

ports of France in 203 vessels, whereof 17

were British, and not one French, - 1,208,461 10 0

The commerce of the Baltic sea appears to have been increasing at this time; for there were 449 more vessels which passed the Sound in this year, than there were in the preceding one. The following is the statement for 1769.

| Vessels belonging to |   |       | Vessels belonging to |   |             |
|----------------------|---|-------|----------------------|---|-------------|
| Bremen               | - | 99    | Lubeck               | - | 49          |
| Courland             | - | 10    | Prussia              | - | 296         |
| Denmark              | - | 1,032 | Russia               | - | 35          |
| Dantzick             | - | 262   | Rostock              | - | 62          |
| England              | - | 1,840 | Sweden               | - | 1,149       |
| France               | - | 13    | Spain                | - | 3           |
| Holland              | - | 2,508 |                      |   |             |
| Hamburgh,            | - | 20    |                      |   |             |
|                      |   |       |                      |   |             |
|                      |   | 5,784 |                      |   | 1,594       |
|                      |   |       |                      |   | 5,784       |
|                      |   |       |                      |   |             |
|                      |   |       |                      |   | Total 7,378 |

An estimate was made this year of the trade of the North-American provinces, including Hudson's bay and Newfoundland, wherein the British vessels employed in trading with those colonies are stated to be 1,078, carrying 28,910 seamen. The exports from Great Britain are made to amount to £3,370,900, and the exports from the colonies to

\* Mr. Swallow's statement, which is very circumstantial, was honoured with a letter from the lords of trade, signifying their satisfaction with the accuracy of his reports, which contain the quantity of every article shipped to every port, but not their value.

£3,924,606: but, if we are to judge from the custom-house accounts, there seems reason to believe that the amount is exaggerated \*.

In the course of this year the empress of Germany declared Ostend a free port; and the king of Denmark declared his port of Gluckstadt at the mouth of the Elbe also free, and abolished the duties on vessels and goods.

There belonged this year to all the ports  
of England 7,939 vessels of the reputed burthen of 573,987 tuns,  
and of Scotland 1,508 - - - 80,928

Total 9,447 - - - 654,915

The net amount of the customs, including the West-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the course of this year, was from the custom-house in London - £2,629,086 4 6  
And from the custom-house in Edinburgh - 10,000 0 0

Total net revenue of the customs of Great Britain £2,639,086 4 6

There were coined in the course of the year  
13,410 pounds of gold, value - - £626,582 5 0  
and no silver.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain, from Christmas 1768 to Christmas 1769, was as follows.

| Countries, &c.           | Imported into   |               | Exported from  |               |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
|                          | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.     | ENGLAND.       | SCOTLAND.     |
| Africa - - -             | £58,955 12 6    |               | £605,180 5 11  |               |
| Canaries - - -           | 6,612 5 11      | £462 1 11     | 36,036 6 3     | £212 9 10     |
| Denmark and Norway - - - | 82,469 8 4      | 38,235 0 3    | 169,155 6 2    | 17,838 7 2    |
| East Country - - -       | 159,481 13 9    |               | 74,422 3 2     |               |
| East-India - - -         | 1,863,233 14 10 |               | 1,205,388 18 4 |               |
| Flanders - - -           | 103,276 18 3    | 1,179 9 1     | 623,579 2 10   | 62,676 17 0   |
| France - - -             | 91,245 6 11     | 2,235 13 5    | 113,310 9 11   | 299,498 19 10 |
| Germany - - -            | 619,181 11 9    | 18,433 14 9   | 1,338,866 9 8  | 50,130 15 1   |
| Greenland - - -          | 21,353 0 5      | 3,921 0 3     | 72 0 0         | 1 17 6        |
| Holland - - -            | 323,720 14 5    | 110,755 10 10 | 1,658,551 13 1 | 306,085 10 8  |
| Ireland - - -            | 1,265,107 12 8  | 144,501 14 2  | 1,964,742 1 9  | 419,271 1 9   |
| Mann - - -               |                 | 788 1 7       |                | 150 19 10     |
| Italy - - -              | 930,045 19 0    | 3,495 3 5     | 746,220 6 2    | 6,420 12 0    |
| Minorca - - -            |                 |               |                | 2,936 1 3     |
| Madeira - - -            | 4,935 9 7       | 470 17 8      | 27,459 2 3     |               |
| Poland - - -             |                 | 9,543 19 11   |                | 1,667 18 4    |
| Portugal - - -           | 369,120 9 1     | 14,547 7 8    | 545,367 2 2    | 763 16 7      |
| Prussia - - -            |                 | 14,028 6 2    |                | 895 10 6      |
| Russia - - -             | 1,038,614 15 10 | 127,975 8 0   | 158,777 11 5   | 3,158 8 11    |
| Spain - - -              | 577,816 6 4     | 7,942 3 5     | 830,893 19 6   | 10,407 0 6    |
| Gibraltar - - -          |                 | 30 6 1        |                | 1,507 13 4    |

\* The first article, the exports from Great Britain to Hudfon's bay, is stated at £16,000; but the official value of the exports to that settlement in several of the early years is under £1,000, and some-

times nothing. In this year it was £4,655; and I do not find any year in which it has reached £9,000 in the custom-house accounts.

| Countries, &c.            | Imported into   |                | Exported from   |                |
|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
|                           | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.      | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.      |
| Straits - - -             | £7,775 5 7      |                | £142,237 15 4   |                |
| Sweden - - -              | 182,896 8 3     | £18,408 1 11   | 57,211 14 8     | £3,814 18 3    |
| Turkey - - -              | 144,419 17 3    |                | 90,880 12 0     |                |
| Venice - - -              | 60,376 5 8      |                | 74,371 8 8      |                |
| Guernsey, &c. - -         | 32,728 0 4      | 1,643 17 8     | 65,794 19 10    |                |
| Hudson's bay - -          | 7,087 5 7       |                | 4,655 13 4      |                |
| Newfoundland - -          | 50,835 3 3      | 4,983 10 1     | 64,080 5 4      | 961 11 3       |
| Quebec - - -              | 43,434 2 3      | 179 7 4        | 174,435 5 7     | 2,909 3 7      |
| Nova-Scotia - -           | 2,270 3 7       |                | 19,271 0 2      |                |
| New-England - -           | 120,353 3 8     | 13,422 9 1     | 207,993 14 3    | 15,701 17 3    |
| New-York - - -            | 73,466 3 9      | 39,916 4 11    | 74,918 7 10     | 1,012 11 9     |
| Pennsylvania - -          | 26,111 11 4     | 2,000 15 6     | 199,909 17 11   | 5,069 19 5     |
| Maryland - - -            | } 361,892 12 0  | { 98,353 6 8   | } 488,362 15 1  | { 51,511 4 1   |
| Virginia - - -            |                 |                |                 |                |
| North Carolina -          | } 387,114 12 1  | { 11,312 6 8   | } 306,600 5 6   | { 11,847 2 8   |
| South Carolina -          |                 |                |                 |                |
| Georgia - - -             | 82,270 2 3      |                | 58,340 19 4     |                |
| Florida - - -             | 1,744 12 2      |                | 29,509 4 10     | 185 3 1        |
| Antigua - - -             | 232,680 8 0     | 48,906 10 0    | 151,642 2 9     | 9,333 15 0     |
| Anguilla - - -            | 3,747 17 3      |                |                 |                |
| Barbados - - -            | 254,092 15 6    | 26,528 6 0     | 165,050 10 9    | 5,164 1 9      |
| Bermuda - - -             | 1,744 19 3      |                | 12,621 8 9      |                |
| Dominica - - -            | 158,543 2 4     |                | 31,863 10 1     |                |
| Grenada - - -             | 307,562 15 1    | 21,398 16 7    | 113,054 6 8     | 9,671 10 8     |
| Jamaica - - -             | 1,266,630 9 4   | 110,054 19 7   | 570,468 10 11   | 53,360 14 3    |
| Montserrat - - -          | 77,653 16 0     | 783 13 9       | 23,110 1 9      | 92 15 4        |
| Nevis - - -               | 40,379 4 0      | 3,179 15 9     | 10,428 9 5      |                |
| New-Providence -          | 4,435 15 11     |                | 6,682 18 8      |                |
| St. Christophers -        | 224,096 9 9     | 18,796 11 0    | 115,609 10 4    | 24,005 3 2     |
| St. Vincents - -          | 70,772 9 3      |                | 53,720 16 10    |                |
| Tobago - - -              |                 |                | 6,119 0 0       | 770 1 0        |
| Tortola - - -             | 54,560 1 5      |                | 27,106 12 10    |                |
| Turks islands - -         |                 | 812 3 8        |                 |                |
| St. Croix - - -           | 18,220 1 3      |                | 2,809 4 10      | 103 10 0       |
| Spanish West-Indies       | 81,494 2 6      |                | 11,352 3 7      |                |
| Imp. and exp. of England  | 11,908,560 16 5 |                | 13,438,236 6 11 |                |
| Imp. and exp. of Scotland | 1,225,529 16 1  | 1,225,529 16 1 | 1,563,045 19 0  | 1,563,045 19 0 |
| Total, Great Britain -    | 13,134,090 12 6 |                | 15,001,282 5 11 |                |

1770.—The French East-India company, notwithstanding the advantages bestowed upon them by the king in the year 1764, continued to languish and decline. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of August 1769 their exclusive privilege was suspended by an arret of council, and leave given to all French subjects to sail to India, they being obliged to take out a passport (free of expense) from the India company, to return to no other port but L'Orient, where warehouses and other conveniencies were provided, and to pay a duty of *five per cent* on the merchandize of India and China, and *three per cent* on that of the isles of France and Bourbon.

The company thereupon offered to surrender to the king all their shipping, amounting to thirty vessels, all their naval and military stores,

their warehouses in France, their forts with all their dependencies in India, together with 2,450 slaves belonging to them in India, for the sum of thirty millions of livres, and they at the same time asked payment of sixteen millions and a half of livres due to them by the king. But he, by his edict of January 1770, gave them an annuity of 1,200,000 livres in full compensation for the sums demanded by them. This mode of settling their affairs they were obliged to submit to; and, after some other arrangements, needless to be here detailed, the French East-India company appear to have become dormant, though not extinct, as a trading company, and sunk into a set of proprietors of dividends payable by the government.

From the time that the English East-India company succeeded to the territorial revenues of Bengal to April 1770, when the edict for the suspension of the French company's monopoly arrived in India, the amount of the duties paid by that company into the custom-house at Hougley was as follows.

|                                   |   |        | <i>Sicca rupees.</i> |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------|----------------------|
| From September 1765 to April 1766 | - | 10,085 | 8 0                  |
| From May 1766 to April 1767       | - | 12,579 | 5 8                  |
| From May 1767 to April 1768       | - | 18,354 | 13 4                 |
| From May 1768 to April 1769       | - | 18,310 | 12 4                 |
| From May 1769 to April 1770       | - | 12,185 | 13 8                 |

These sums multiplied by 40 give the total of the French company's trade at that factory, as stated by themselves. What was paid by the French factories at Patna, Dacca, &c. or by private French merchants, (whose duties were four per cent on the amount of their invoices) does not appear from any books or accounts received at the India-house.

The French East-India trade did not flourish after it was laid open, though the duties payable in France were very moderate; and the king is said to have lent his ships to some of the adventurers. The failure of success may in a great measure be imputed to the want of due experience of the nature of the trade in many of those whom the suspension of the monopoly induced to become adventurers. But probably the most effectual cause of the want of success was the general distress brought upon the country by the disgraceful breach of faith in the government, who reduced the interest of the national debt to one half of the stipulated rate, and deprived the holders of tontine stock of the benefit of survivorship. This shameless stretch of power to plunder the subject brought ruin upon many thousands of individuals, and was probably the principal cause of the numerous bankruptcies, which about this time spread misery and dismay through the whole kingdom of France\*.

\* One house at Marseille failed for twenty millions of livres.

March 16<sup>th</sup>—The act for prohibiting the exportation of all sorts of grain and malt, and the extraction of spirits from wheat, and permitting the importation of salted meat and butter from Ireland and America for a limited time, was continued. And the free importation of tallow, hog's lard, and grease, was also continued till 25<sup>th</sup> March 1773. [10 *Geo. III*, cc. 1, 2.]

But the exportation of malt was very soon afterwards permitted (29<sup>th</sup> March). [10 *Geo. III*, c. 10.]

April 12<sup>th</sup>—The merchants trading to America having presented a petition, setting forth the great losses they sustained by the interruption of their trade in consequence of the late laws,

The act [7 *Geo. III*, c. 46] for laying duties on glass, &c. landed in the British colonies in America was repealed, as to glass, red-lead, white-lead, painter's colours, paper, and pasteboards, 'as the said duties, in so far as they affect the produce and manufactures of Great Britain, do in their nature tend to the prejudice and discouragement thereof, and are therefor contrary to the true principles of commerce.' The drawback on China ware carried to America was also restored, but the duty on tea was allowed to remain in force, [10 *Geo. III*, c. 17] being intended as a small acknowledgement (or assertion) of the supremacy of the British parliament in the legislative and revenue concerns of the colonies \*.

The fields to the westward of London, in the parish of St. Mary-le-bone (commonly called Marybone) having been very much built upon, the several regulations for paving, lighting, &c. for the names of the streets and numbers of the houses, for regulating weights, measures, &c. were extended to that quarter. [10 *Geo. III*, c. 23.]

The liberty of carrying rice to any part of Europe south of Cape Finisterre, which had been formerly granted to the provinces of Carolina and Georgia, was extended to the two Floridas. [10 *Geo. III*, c. 31.]

The commissioners of the longitude were empowered to receive proposals relating to the discovery of the longitude, and for improving the lunar tables, or for any other discoveries or improvements useful to navigation; and, if they should think the proposed improvements worthy of a reward, to recommend them to the commissioners of the navy for a reward not exceeding £5,000. [10 *Geo. III*, c. 34.]

Of two millions of money, borrowed in the 29<sup>th</sup> year of George II, one half million was added to the three-per-cent funds; and one million and a half constituted a particular fund or stock, bearing interest at

\* The bill for this repeal was brought into parliament on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March, and on the evening of that very same day a squabble happened in the streets of Boston between the town's people and the soldiers, who had long viewed each other with

an evil eye, wherein four of the town's people were killed, and seven wounded. This was the first blood shed in the unhappy quarrel between Great Britain and the colonies.

three and a half per cent, with a condition, in the option of parliament, to be repaid any time after the expiration of fifteen years computed from the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 1756; which sum was accordingly now ordered to be paid off at the bank on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 1771. [10 *Geo. III, c. 36.*]

The encouragement given to the cultivation of indigo in the British colonies in America was continued till the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1777. [10 *Geo. III, c. 37.*]

The permission to import linen yarn, and the bounty of three halfpence a yard on the exportation of British and Irish linens not exceeding 1/6 per yard in value, were continued till 24<sup>th</sup> June 1778. A new bounty of one halfpenny per yard was allowed upon British checked and striped linens, not less than 25 inches in breadth, and from 7d to 1/6 in value: and the bounty of three halfpence was extended to sheetings and table linens above yard-wide, to be computed on the square yard, so that the value do not exceed 1/6 the square yard. In order to prevent finer linens from being entered for the bounty, the officers of the customs are empowered to take to themselves such linens on paying the proprietor one penny a yard above the invoice price. The bounties allowed by this act are ordered to be paid without any fee, reward, or deduction whatsoever. [10 *Geo. III, c. 38.*]

In order to encourage the cultivation of hemp and flax in this kingdom, additional duties had been laid on foreign linens [7 *Geo. III, c. 58*] to constitute a fund not exceeding £15,000 a year. It was now enacted that £8,000 of that sum should be appropriated to those purposes in England; and no less than £7,000 a year for the same purposes should be put under the management of the trustees for fisheries and manufactures in Scotland. If the allotted funds should fall short, England should have eight fifteenths, and Scotland seven fifteenths of the money collected\*. [10 *Geo. III, c. 40.*]

Whereas a register of the prices of corn in the several counties in Great Britain was thought generally useful, the justices of peace were directed to give orders at their first quarter sessions after the 29<sup>th</sup> of September in every year for returns to be made weekly of the prices of every kind of grain, and to cause a standard Winchester bushel of eight gallons to be kept at each market town. The returns are to be transmitted to the treasury, and there to be registered in a book kept for that purpose, an abstract of which is ordered to be published weekly in the London gazette. It was also enacted, that a register should be kept of the quantities of corn exported and imported, with the amount of the bounties paid, and duties received, on the same, to be made up from re-

\* It appears by the thirteenth Report of the commissioners for examining the public accounts, dated 18<sup>th</sup> March 1785, that no claims had then been made in England for any premiums for raising hemp and flax; and that some payments had been made in Scotland on that account.



turns to be transmitted from the commissioners of the customs in England and Scotland. [10 *Geo. III*, c. 39.]

The duties formerly paid upon foreign hats or bonnets made of bast or straw, chip, cane, and horse-hair, were repealed; and a new duty imposed of 12/6 on every dozen of such hats, &c. not above 22 inches in diameter, and of 25/ for such as exceed that dimension; and of 6/8 a pound on plating and other materials of bast, &c. used in making hats. [10 *Geo. III*, c. 43.]

Traders in exciseable commodities, found guilty of keeping false weights and scales for weighing their exciseable stock, were subjected to a penalty of £100. [10 *Geo. III*, c. 44.]

The penalty of 30 per cent, payable to the India company on goods imported from the East-Indies by British subjects trading to India under foreign commissions, not being found sufficient to check such illicit trade, it was now raised to cent per cent on the value of all goods so imported. By the same act the civil and military servants of the company were made amenable to the court of king's bench in England for acts of oppression committed in India. [10 *Geo. III*, c. 47.]

Persons knowingly receiving stolen jewels or gold and silver plate were made liable to transportation for fourteen years. [10 *Geo. III*, c. 48.]

The delays and evasions of justice occasioned by the privileges enjoyed by the members of both houses of parliament, and even by their servants, were found extremely prejudicial in a commercial country. It was therefor enacted, that after the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 1770 suits might be prosecuted in courts of record, equity, or admiralty, and courts having causes matrimonial and testamentary, against peers and all members of parliament, without arresting their persons: and the courts may order the issues levied by distress infinite to be sold, and the money to be applied under the direction of the court to pay the plaintiffs costs. [10 *Geo. III*, c. 50.]

An act of the Scottish parliament in the year 1685 had empowered landed gentlemen to entail their estates with such provisions and restrictions as they thought proper, which tallies [entails] when completed and published in the manner directed by the act, were declared effectual against purchasers, creditors, and all others whatsoever: and many of the entails, made in consequence of this act, limited the possessors of estates from granting leases beyond their own lives. Such a law being an effectual bar against all improvement, it was now altered so far as to permit the possessors of estates so entailed to give leases for fourteen years and one existing life, for two existing lives and the life of the survivor, or for any number of years not exceeding thirty-one; provided that such leases shall oblige the tenants to improve the lands in the manner expressed in the act. They are also enabled to grant leases for ninety-nine years of lots, not exceeding five acres to one person, for the pur-

pose of building villages consisting of at least two houses upon each acre, of the value of at least £10 each house, which must be kept in sufficient tenantable repair. But no lease is to be made at an under-rent in consideration of a sum paid in hand.

In order further to encourage the possessors of entailed estates in Scotland to improve them by inclosing, planting, and draining, and to build suitable farm-houses and offices for the tenants, every such possessor, on complying with the prescribed forms, is empowered during his life-time to charge the estate for such purposes with a debt amounting to three fourths of the money so expended, but which shall not exceed four years' free and net rent; which debt the succeeding heir of entail shall be liable to pay, with interest computed from the time of his accession to the estate, to the executor of the preceding possessor, unless such executor be himself the heir of entail, before he can make any improvements himself with a view to constitute a debt upon the next heir of entail. In the same manner the possessor is enabled to build a mansion-house for himself, and to throw three fourths of the expense upon his successor, so as the debt thus created do not exceed two years net rent of the estate.

For the further improvement of such entailed estates, the possessors are empowered to exchange, under the authority of the shire or steward of the shire, any detached parcels of land, not exceeding 30 acres of arable or 100 acres of hill or pasture, for equivalent parcels situated more conveniently for the improvement of the entailed estate, such newly-acquired pieces of land being subject to all the restrictions of the entail, as much as the rest of the estate. And lastly, all tallies (or entails) of estates in Scotland, made either before or after the year 1685, are equally liable to the modifications of this act. [10 Geo. III, c. 51.]

Whoever considers the close connection between improvements of agriculture and the prosperity of commerce, will not think the abridgement of this law impertinent in a history of commerce.

An act was made for regulating the coal-heavers on the River Thames, and protecting them from the oppressions of the coal-undertakers. [10 Geo III, c. 53.]

The corporation of the city of Glasgow was empowered to improve the navigation of the River Clyde, and to build a bridge over the river. [10 Geo. III, c. 104.]

Many canals in various parts of the country (the chief of which will be noticed in due time), and also the improvement of several small harbours, were provided for in this session of parliament.

The advocates for a settlement upon Falkland's islands, in their sanguine expectations of advantages to be derived from it, saw not only the facility of distressing the Spanish settlements in time of war, which (as already observed under the year 1766) was the object Lord Anson had

in view in first proposing it, but also vast prospects of extensive trade with the Indian nations of Chili and the southern extremity of America, and the natives of the great continent to be discovered in the Antarctic regions, the visionary *Terra australis incognita*, besides the profitable clandestine trade with the Spanish and Portuguese settlements in South America. Similar ideas with respect to trade seem to have prevailed about the same time in France, which produced Mr. Bougainville's voyage and a settlement upon those islands, called Port Louis, afterwards resigned by France to Spain.

In the later part of the year 1769 Captain Hunt, the commanding officer at the British settlement called Port Egmont, discovered, that there was a Spanish colony with a governor at the head of it at the old French settlement, to which the Spaniards had given the new name of Port Solidad. A correspondence thereupon ensued between the two commanders, wherein each asserted the sole right of his sovereign to the country, and warned the other to depart. In February 1770 two Spanish frigates arrived, the commander of which protested against the British settlement, declaring at the same time, that he would take no further step till he should acquaint his court of the affair. Captain Hunt thereupon thought it best to go home to inform government of what had happened; and he left two sloops of war to keep possession in his absence, one of which was afterwards lost on the coast of America. In the beginning of June five Spanish frigates, with a considerable military force, arrived at Port Egmont, which obliged the British commander to surrender the place, but not his ship, to the Spaniards. The ship, however, by an article of the capitulation, was not to sail till a limited time; and for securing the performance of that article the Spaniards thought proper to unhang the ship's rudder, and carry it on shore.

The affront put upon the British flag, and particularly the affair of the rudder, was loudly resented at home; and the minds of most people were much enflamed and eager for a war with Spain; a war, which the suggestions of the dæmon of avarice, stifling the wiser counsel of the genius of commerce, too often renders popular with the unthinking vulgar. In short, this trifling object was upon the point of plunging Europe, or rather the whole world, into the horrors of war; and the premiums of insurance upon outward-bound vessels actually rose from *four* to *ten* per cent. But the king of Spain, having happily no inclination for hostilities, (or being *strongly* advised against them) in the beginning of the following year (January 1771) formally disavowed the act of his officer, and ordered the place to be restored to Great Britain. It was accordingly taken possession of (16<sup>h</sup> September 1771); and afterwards, upon a sufficient experience of its inutility, it was silently abandoned in the year 1774.

On the application of the planters and others concerned in the island

of Dominica, representing, that its great distance from Grenada, the seat of government, rendered the connection with that island very detrimental to it, it was resolved to erect it into a separate government; and Sir William Young, who was lieutenant-governor of it under General Melville, the governor-general, was appointed the first governor.

Mr. George Walker, the justly-renowned commander of the Squadron of private ships of war, called *The Royal family*, and the public-spirited promoter of fisheries at Campbelltown and elsewhere in Scotland, sent home from Nova-Scotia a memorial to the board of trade, setting forth, that about seven years ago he had carried a large cargo of salt and fishing implements in his own ships to America, and having established a settlement on the coast of Nova-Scotia northward of St. John's island, entered largely into the fishery. He observes, that the coast from Baye vert (Green bay) to the Bay of Chaleur, a tract of about 50 leagues, is the most productive of fish of any part of America; that the Bay of Chaleur abounds with salmon, cod, herring, mackerel, sturgeon, bass little inferior to salmon, lobsters, and oysters; and that it is the only place in that country free of fogs, whereby the fish are caught and cured six weeks earlier than elsewhere, and consequently can be so much sooner at market; and he adds, that about the first of July the fish migrate to the coast of Labrador. That great tract of coast, whereon he had settled, was now in the legal possession of about twenty British families, and still inhabited by numbers of Indians, and by many Acadian French, who took advantage of their remoteness from the seat of government, there being no other authority in the whole country than a single unsupported magistrate (Mr. Walker himself), to instill principles of hostility to the British settlers into the minds of the Indians. The French moreover used to procure from the Indians large quantities of furs in exchange for French goods, which were run in upon the coast from St. Pierre and Miquelon. The total want of any legal restraint encouraged the people employed by the British undertakers of fisheries to run off with their boats and vessels in the fishing season to remote parts of Newfoundland, where they sold the fish, and, in order to elude the pursuits of justice, entered into other services, whereby considerable property and many subjects were lost to Great-Britain. Other fishermen used to sell their employer's fish on the bank for rum, &c. to the New-England vessels, whereby they rendered themselves useless for the remainder of the season, the consequence of which to their employers was ruinous. The New-Englanders, not contented with their unlawful purchases, used to land upon the coast, and rob the flakes of the fish drying on them in the care of the women and children, and, presuming on impunity, frequently carried their piracy to such a pitch of audacity as to set fire to vessels that were stranded, though they might be got off, merely in order to plunder the iron work. Another

thing ruinous to the fishery, and also a consequence of the want of government, was the practice of throwing the refuse of the fish overboard on the fishing grounds, which poisons the fish, or drives them off the banks. This lazy practice had almost ruined the fishery, when the country belonged to the French, who made, and enforced, a law against it; whereby the fishery again revived.

Commodore Walker further represented, that the want of a custom-house, and the want of legally-constituted authority in this sequestered region, were insuperable bars to the improvement of the soil, and to the extension of the fisheries and the trade with the Indian natives. Therefore he recommended, that a sub-governor should be appointed for this district \*, and supported by such a force as might enable him to preserve tranquillity and justice among the settlers, and that he should have under his command a few cruising vessels to enforce order and regulation, and prevent piracies and illicit trade among the fishermen during the season. He also advised, that the same person, or another, should act as deputy-collector of the customs for the convenience and dispatch of trade.

For some years past the oppression of the British merchants seems to have formed a part of the policy of the Portuguese government, of which we have already seen many instances. This summer Mr. Connel, a British merchant, was imprisoned at Lisbon for refusing to pay brokerage demanded of him, contrary to treaty, by a broker whom he had not employed.

The situation of the East-India Company's affairs being such as to admit of a further augmentation of their dividend, it was declared for the July payment at the rate of *twelve per cent* per annum.

September 17<sup>th</sup>—An artificial navigable cut from the river Lea into the Thames at Limehouse was completed, and began to be navigated by barges. As this new cut saves the long and tedious circumnavigation of the Isle of dogs, its great utility to the inland trade of the country adjacent to the river Lea is obvious.

November 29<sup>th</sup>—The act prohibiting the exportation of bread and grain (excepting rice), and the distillation from wheat, was further continued. [11 Geo. III, c. 1.]

December 16<sup>th</sup>—For the better supply of seamen for the navy and merchant service, merchant-ships were allowed to have three fourths of their crews foreigners till the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 1772. [11 Geo. III, c. 3.]

December 22<sup>d</sup>—The free importation of salted provisions from Ireland and America was further continued till the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1772. [11 Geo. III. c. 8.]

Lieutenant-governor Bull, of South Carolina stated the number of white people about 45,000, and of negroes about 80,000. The land



possessed by residents, though not all cultivated, was 2,591,762 acres, as returned in last year's tax. Since 1<sup>st</sup> January 1769 there were 5,438 negroes imported, and sold for about £200,000 sterling. Hemp was increasing in quantity and improving in quality: this year 526,131 pounds of it, brought to Charlestown, received the provincial bounty amounting to £2,500 sterling; of which quantity nearly two fifths were worked up in the province. The interior part of the country, he says, is found to be well adapted to vines; and one poor German actually made eighty gallons of wine\*. The tobacco and flour were in want of legal regulations.

Mr. Bull also reported the prosperous state of a colony of French protestants settled in the province in the year 1764, and of a large body of Germans established there in 1765 at the expense of a number of private gentlemen in London.

Governor Bruere of Bermuda this year stated the population of the islands under his command to be about 6,000 white people of all sorts, and full as many, or more, negroes†. He observes, that in time of war they are wealthy, their vessels, which sail remarkably fast, getting a preference everywhere for freight‡, and also selling for high prices: but in time of peace they can scarcely sell them for the cost. He states the 'small exports' to consist of sawed stones for building, limes, onions, cabbages, and ducks, which they carry to Barbados, Antigua, &c. and their vessels find employment by carrying passengers and goods among the West-India islands||. He very much regrets their neglect of raising corn, whence their whole cash is carried off for that article, and, what is worse, not by their own vessels, but by North Americans, who bring it, by which means the supply is also precarious, and he apprehends,

\* Mr. Collinson, the celebrated naturalist, had before this time remarked, that the natural grapes of America were capable of making good wine, if properly managed; and he added, that if proper care were taken to improve the grape by cultivation, and the wine by a diligent and skilful process in making it, America might become one of the most celebrated wine countries in the world.

† If this very small tract of country consisting of chalk rock (which they work into pieces fit for building with a saw and a plane) in many places not even covered with soil, contain 12,000 people, white and black, it is probably the most populous part of the British dominions, excepting large towns; as there must be about one inhabitant for every acre, the whole country being only about 24 miles long, and from half a mile to three miles in breadth. A much lower, and apparently an accurate, statement of the population was afterwards given by Governor Browne.

‡ In time of war other owners must give exorbitant wages to their seamen. The Bermudian owner, if he commands the vessel himself, as many

of them do, and is proprietor of four negro sailors, pays no wages at all except to a mate.

|| He might have added—and to the continent of America. He says nothing of their wrecking, except incidentally noticing, that the people are accustomed to benefit by shipwrecks; nor of their catching turtle, which they carry to the West-India islands and America.

Whales are sometimes taken near Bermuda; but they are not very numerous, as appears by a duty or tax of £10 on each full-grown whale not being sufficient to raise £100 a-year of additional salary to the governor. This whale-fishery is conducted at almost no expense in open boats manned by negroes.

The incidents of a whale-fishing adventure, and the beautiful appearance of the island, have been celebrated by Waller, who had never seen any other evergreen country, and who spent some weeks in the island, whereby the fame of this trifling spot has been raised almost above that of any of the West-India islands. Such are the creative powers of poetry.



may some time starve the people, and drive the negroes into rebellion. He proposes the erection of a light-house, as a thing absolutely necessary: and in time of war, he says, the islands should never be without a frigate. He observes, that notwithstanding the general poverty there is no money smaller than a half real, and he recommends the introduction of copper halfpence.

The governor of the Bahama islands suspecting, that a great deal of illicit trade was going on at Turks islands, applied to Captain Wallace of the navy, who sent Lieutenant Dundas in an armed schooner up to those islands, where he seized a sloop called the Friendship; and the same officer soon after seized a brig called the Edinburgh in the harbour of New-Providence: and both vessels were condemned in the court of admiralty for taking onboard foreign produce and other goods prohibited by law at Turks islands.

Sir William Trelawney, governor of Jamaica, reported, that the county of Cornwall in the west end of the island was now so much improved as to make three sevenths of the whole produce of the island. He also represented the prosperity of the north side of the island to be so much advanced by the great number of new plantations within ten miles of the sea, and by the increase of commerce at the free ports of Montego bay and Lucea, as to be well worthy of the special protection of government by stationing some ships of war at Port Antonio. 'The almost total neglect of this place about the year 1748, it was supposed, was chiefly owing to the uncultivated condition of the parts about it, the people being then scarcely recovered from their fears of the rebellious negroes, and unwilling to risque precarious settlements. It is said moreover that the place was unhealthy, that his Majesty's ships were with difficulty supplied with fresh provisions, and that the communication by land with Port-Royal was extremely bad. But these objections are now in a great measure, if not totally, removed; for the adjoining country being now cleared, the rains are become less frequent, and the place as wholesome as any other part of the island. Very large and fruitful pens are now in the neighbourhood, sufficient to supply with vegetables and cattle any number of ships stationed there: and considerable grants of money have been made by the assembly, and expended in making good roads from that port to the southern parts of the island.'

In consequence of an importation from North-America to Jamaica of Spanish gold coins, which had been mutilated to, or originally manufactured of, about three fourths of the real value (the irregular form of the Spanish hammered money encouraging such frauds) the assembly of Jamaica passed a severe act against clipping, diminishing, or forging, the foreign coins current in the island, or importing such deficient coins.

In the later end of the year the thriving new sugar colony of Tobago

go was thrown into the greatest consternation by the revolt of some of the negro slaves. A military force was immediately sent from Grenada by General Melville, the governor-general of the ceded islands, by means of which, and some assistance given by Captain Reynolds in the Quebec frigate, the insurgents were soon reduced, the number of whom, it was found, after all, did not much exceed thirty.

The island of Grenada was also alarmed by an attack of the maroon negroes, who lived concealed in the woods in the heart of the island: but no considerable damage was done.

The Caribs of St. Vincents about the same time made an attack upon the houses and works erected by some white people, who had intruded upon the lands occupied by them.

*An Account of the value of the exports from the British West-India islands* in the course of this year is here inserted, in order to afford a comparison with a more ample account of their produce and trade, which will be given under the year 1788\*.

| Exports from       | Great Britain and Ireland. | North America. | Other islands. | Africa. | Total value in sterl. money. |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------|------------------------------|
| Jamaica to - -     | 1,391,210                  | 146,324        | 595            |         | 1,538,129                    |
| Virgin islands - - | 61,696                     | 10,133         |                |         | 71,829                       |
| Anguilla - -       | 3,800                      | 2,057          |                |         | 5,857                        |
| St. Christophers - | 367,074                    | 59,794         | 519            | 68      | 427,455                      |
| Nevis - - -        | 43,827                     | 14,155         |                |         | 57,982                       |
| Antigua - - -      | 430,210                    | 35,551         | 230            |         | 465,991                      |
| Montserrat - - -   | 89,907                     | 12,633         |                |         | 102,540                      |
| Dominica - - -     | 46,365                     | 16,496         |                |         | 62,861                       |
| St. Vincents - - - | 79,126                     | 13,375         |                |         | 92,501                       |
| Grenada - - -      | 454,977                    | 51,061         | 672            |         | 506,710                      |
| Barbados - - -     | 311,012                    | 119,828        | 1,173          |         | 432,013                      |
| Bahamas - - -      |                            |                |                |         | 5,919                        |
| Bermudas - - -     |                            |                |                |         | 8,013                        |
| Totals - - -       | 3,279,204                  | 481,407        | 3,189          | 68      | 3,777,800                    |

Tobago also exported some produce, the value of which is not ascertained: it was, however, but trifling, the island being then but in its infancy with respect to cultivation.

The total value of the woollen manufactures exported from Great Britain at this time was above four millions of sterling money: and it has since increased considerably.

The gross produce of the duty on hops this year amounted to £101,131 : 2 : 7.

By Mr Swallow's report of the trade at Petersburg it appears, that 306 British vessels, and 229 of all other nations, sailed with cargoes from that port in the course of this year.

\* I have compiled this account from the information collected by the industry of Doctor Campbell in his accounts of the several islands. [*Political survey of Great Britain*, v. ii, pp. 658 et seqq.]

By reports transmitted from Hamburgh by Mr. Woodford it appears, that in the course of the year the goods imported into that city from the British dominions in 200 vessels, whereof 163 were British, amounted to

and the imports from France in 177 vessels, whereof 19 were British, and *not one French*, amounted to

£1,020,251 : 5 : 4 sterling ;

945,467 : 4 : 0

Mr Woodford observed, that though the number of vessels from British ports was fewer by 16 than last year, he believed that deficiency was fully balanced by the greater burthen of the ships of this year ; and that, so far from there being any decrease in the trade of those ports which sent large ships with valuable cargoes, there were five ships more from London, and 10 ships more from Glasgow, than in the year 1769.

He complained, that the merchants of Hamburgh, by means of the great numbers of Hamburghers settled as merchants in London, were enabled to monopolize the carrying trade between the two ports, which they confined to thirty large ships of from 300 to 600 tons, belonging to Hamburgh, at such exorbitant freights as absolutely prevented several bulky articles from being shipped ; while only one Englishman, Mr. Newby, ventured to employ any vessels in that trade ; and he had three good ships in it.

There belonged this year to all the ports  
of England 7,898 vessels, of the computed burthen of 593,962 tuns,  
and of Scotland 1,509 88,849

Total 9,407 682,811

The net amount of the customs, including the West-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the course of this year, was from the custom-house in London - £2,537,143 18 8  
and from the custom-house in Edinburgh - 9,000 0 0

Total net revenue of the customs of Great Britain £2,546,143 18 8

There were coined at the mint in the course of the year

13,350 pounds of gold, value - £623,778 15 0  
and 22 pounds of silver, - 68 4 0  
£623,846 19 0

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain, from Christmas 1769 to Christmas 1770, was as follows.

| Countries, &c.                               | Imported into   |                | Exported from   |                |
|--|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
|  | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.      | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.      |
| Africa . . . . .                             | £68,449 13 7    |                | £571,003 6 9    |                |
| Canaries . . . . .                           | 10,656 8 9      | £815 13 11     | 41,352 11 10    |                |
| Denmark, &c. . . . .                         | 76,898 17 2     | 31,469 14 5    | 167,257 4 11    | £21,459 17 9   |
| East country . . . . .                       | 175,552 15 6    |                | 80,329 0 8      |                |
| East India . . . . .                         | 1,941,627 4 0   |                | 1,082,030 8 10  |                |
| Flanders . . . . .                           | 113,860 11 7    | 174 2 8        | 678,286 12 1    | 67,238 5 11    |
| France . . . . .                             | 65,975 19 11    | 4,306 1 2      | 156,509 6 7     | 346,736 12 2   |
| Germany . . . . .                            | 684,463 8 11    | 24,824 16 6    | 1,272,569 0 4   | 85,044 4 8     |
| Greenland . . . . .                          | 22,626 6 1      | 2,983 6 5      | 29 6 4          |                |
| Holland . . . . .                            | 352,535 6 4     | 90,598 9 11    | 1,766,333 10 2  | 302,413 7 9    |
| Ireland . . . . .                            | 1,214,398 4 5   | 166,500 9 7    | 2,125,466 12 8  | 445,891 18 7   |
| Mann . . . . .                               |                 | 359 2 11       |                 | 265 16 2       |
| Italy . . . . .                              | 815,944 17 2    | 3,926 18 10    | 756,385 11 3    | 27,421 18 8    |
| Madeira . . . . .                            | 4,935 12 6      | 357 10 8       | 26,500 15 3     | 218 16 3       |
| Poland . . . . .                             |                 | 11,949 11 2    |                 | 1,459 4 3      |
| Prussia . . . . .                            |                 | 8,382 18 6     |                 | 438 9 1        |
| Portugal . . . . .                           | 329,663 3 4     | 9,563 0 10     | 534,708 19 1    | 1,614 15 0     |
| Russia . . . . .                             | 1,046,710 5 11  | 117,716 0 2    | 145,743 0 9     | 1,456 3 8      |
| Spain . . . . .                              | 505,267 13 2    | 6,278 5 11     | 887,099 1 4     | 12,718 6 7     |
| Straits . . . . .                            | 7,083 11 5      |                | 148,813 18 3    |                |
| Gibraltar . . . . .                          |                 | 13 14 9        |                 | 239 15 0       |
| Sweden . . . . .                             | 136,616 6 0     | 22,375 17 3    | 58,576 4 8      | 8,838 4 9      |
| Turkey . . . . .                             | 164,366 3 6     |                | 22,032 15 8     |                |
| Venice . . . . .                             | 82,963 19 7     |                | 71,541 5 4      |                |
| Guernsey, &c. . . . .                        | 47,542 14 5     | 522 11 3       | 52,608 5 9      |                |
| America in general . . . . .                 |                 | 486,376 18 11  |                 | 339,471 7 1    |
| Hudson's Bay . . . . .                       | 10,715 0 7      |                | 4,623 2 1       |                |
| Newfoundland . . . . .                       | 45,108 11 0     |                | 91,058 0 0      |                |
| Cape Breton . . . . .                        | 197 4 4         |                |                 |                |
| Quebec . . . . .                             | 40,703 6 7      |                | 231,626 6 6     |                |
| Nova-Scotia . . . . .                        | 7,324 7 4       |                | 45,092 4 10     |                |
| New-England . . . . .                        | 148,011 14 9    |                | 394,451 7 5     |                |
| New-York . . . . .                           | 69,882 10 5     |                | 475,991 12 0    |                |
| Pennsylvania . . . . .                       | 28,109 5 11     |                | 134,881 15 5    |                |
| Virginia and Maryland . . . . .              | 435,094 9 7     |                | 717,782 17 3    |                |
| Carolina . . . . .                           | 278,907 14 0    |                | 146,273 17 0    |                |
| Georgia . . . . .                            | 55,532 7 5      |                | 56,193 16 7     |                |
| Florida . . . . .                            | 3,688 3 0       |                | 39,857 12 11    |                |
| West Indies in general . . . . .             |                 | 221,387 12 5   |                 | 64,322 9 5     |
| Anguilla . . . . .                           | 167 17 11       |                |                 |                |
| Antigua . . . . .                            | 349,102 1 8     |                | 112,533 2 0     |                |
| Barbados . . . . .                           | 283,455 19 1    |                | 203,568 9 8     |                |
| Bermuda . . . . .                            |                 |                | 9,705 15 6      |                |
| Dominica . . . . .                           | 136,152 18 7    |                | 34,209 7 10     |                |
| Grenada . . . . .                            | 433,421 12 1    |                | 136,792 12 8    |                |
| Jamaica . . . . .                            | 1,274,807 13 6  |                | 558,219 10 6    |                |
| Montserrat . . . . .                         | 83,947 9 1      |                | 19,297 16 5     |                |
| Nevis . . . . .                              | 97,152 19 5     |                | 17,307 10 3     |                |
| St. Christophers . . . . .                   | 324,287 7 8     |                | 96,834 10 1     |                |
| St. Vincents . . . . .                       | 81,965 18 3     |                | 42,821 13 11    |                |
| Tobago . . . . .                             | 2,323 11 10     |                | 19,123 4 9      |                |
| Tortola . . . . .                            | 43,230 4 4      |                | 16,985 12 9     |                |
| New-Providence . . . . .                     | 6,387 11 10     |                | 6,060 7 7       |                |
| St. Croix . . . . .                          | 21,386 12 9     |                | 1,069 5 3       |                |
| St. Eustathius . . . . .                     | 476 18 11       |                |                 |                |
| Foreign West-Indies }<br>& Bay of Honduras } | 87,256 19 2     | 2,486 10 8     | 9,115 1 9       | 668 2 4        |
| Imp. and exp. of Eng. . . . .                | 12,216,937 14 3 |                | 14,266,653 17 5 |                |
| Imp. and exp. of Scot. . . . .               | 1,213,360 8 10  | 1,213,360 8 10 | 1,727,917 15 1  | 1,727,917 15 1 |
| Total, Great Britain . . . . .               | 13,430,298 3 1  |                | 15,994,571 12 6 |                |

1771, January 4<sup>th</sup>—The lord mayor of London ordered the meal-weighers of the corn market in Mark lane to stick up in a conspicuous place an exact account of the quantities and prices of the wheat fold and the names of the buyers. This regulation gave great offence to the dealers, millers, &c. but was highly applauded by the public, who hoped it would contribute greatly to prevent engrossing the most necessary article of subsistence.

April 12<sup>th</sup>—The increased number of the people in the metropolis, and probably also the increased luxury of the people, rendering the 800 hackney coaches, hitherto licenced, too few to accommodate the public, 200 more coaches were licenced to ply, they paying, as the former ones, a weekly duty of five shillings each for their licences. [11 Geo. III, c. 24.]

The important fishery of the River Tweed was regulated; and no person is allowed to kill any species of salmon in that river or its branches between the 10<sup>th</sup> of October and the 12<sup>th</sup> of January, nor at any time of the year between twelve o'clock on Saturday night and two o'clock on Monday morning. Taking, or even having in possession, the spawn, fry, or young brood, of the fish between the 1<sup>st</sup> of April and the 1<sup>st</sup> of June was also made punishable by fine, as were also laying dirt or rubbish in the river, and disturbing the fish when entering the river. [11 Geo. III, c. 27.]

The consequence of the irregularity, or stoppage, in paying the bounty on the herring fishery in Scotland, while it was regularly paid in the ports of England, whereby the number of busses fitted out from the Scottish ports, which in the year 1767 was 263, was reduced in 1770 to 19, has already been noticed under the year 1766, when the stoppage began. For the summer fishing of this year (1771) there were only 4 busses cleared out, so that the fishery might be said to be annihilated, or rather abandoned to foreigners, who were enriched by vast sums received for herrings caught in the Scottish seas, great quantities of which found their way to our own West-India islands.

So far as the regular payment of the bounty could operate to revive this perishing trade, it was evident, that a smaller bounty, regularly paid, would be preferable to a larger one with a delay of several years. The proprietors of the busses, therefor, made a proposal to government, which was passed into a law, to the following effect.

May 8<sup>th</sup>—A bounty of *thirty shillings* per tun, to commence on the 22<sup>d</sup> of October 1771, and to continue for seven years, was granted to all decked vessels from 20 to 80 tuns burthen, built in Britain after the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 1760, and manned and navigated agreeable to the existing laws, which are fitted out for, and employed in, the herring fishery. Every vessel of 20 tuns is to carry six men, and larger vessels to have one man for every five tuns above twenty; and to carry an appointed quantity

of nets, salt, and other fishing stores, proportioned to the tunnage. Every vessel intended for the summer fishery must be at the station or rendezvous on or before the 22<sup>d</sup> of June; and must not begin to fish before the 24<sup>th</sup>; after which they are to continue fishing till the 12<sup>th</sup> of October, unless they shall have completed their loading sooner. Those intended for the winter fishery must be at the rendezvous on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, and continue fishing till the 11<sup>th</sup> of January, unless completely loaded sooner. The stations appointed for the vessels to assemble at previous to the commencement of the fishery, and for their return from it, were Yarmouth in Norfolk, Leith, Inverness, Brasseley sound, Kirkwall, Oban, Campbeltown, and Whitehaven: and the bounty in Scotland was no longer to be dependent on the produce of a particular fund, but to be punctually paid from the whole revenue of the kingdom, as it is in England. [11 Geo. III, c. 31.]

An act for the keeping and carriage of gun-powder, among other precautions, directs, that, for the security of the great number of vessels lying in the River Thames, no vessel shall have onboard above 25 pounds of gun-powder, while she is above Blackwall. [11 Geo. III, c. 33.]

The exportation of live cattle and hogs, and also of the flesh of those animals, was prohibited, except to Gibraltar, Minorca, and such of the colonies as have been usually supplied with provisions from Great Britain. [11 Geo. III, c. 37.]

For the encouragement of the whale fishery, the importation of the fins, oil, and blubber, of whales, and the oil, skins, and other produce of seals, and other creatures caught in the Greenland seas, by vessels, of which the captain, and at least one third of the men, are British, was permitted free of any duty. Also from 25<sup>th</sup> December 1771, every British ship, of strength sufficient to encounter the Greenland seas, and manned and provided in a manner proper for the whale fishery, that proceeds in the proper season to prosecute that fishery in the Greenland seas, Davis's straits, or the adjacent seas, and returns to the port whence she sailed, is entitled to a bounty of *forty shillings* a tun on every voyage for *five years*, to *thirty shillings* for a second term of *five years*, and to *twenty shillings* for a third term of five years: the whole bounties granted by this act expiring on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December 1786: every vessel of 200 tuns is obliged to carry *four boats* and 30 men, including the master and surgeon; and every ship from 200 to 400 tuns to carry *one boat* and 6 men for every 50 tuns above 200; and every ship to have *one apprentice* for every 50 tuns of her burthen, who is to be reckoned part of her compliment of men.

As doubts had arisen, whether it was lawful to insure the bounty, which the vessel is entitled to in the event of her arrival, it was declared lawful to insure such bounty, and to recover it from the underwriters, if the vessel be lost.



The same bounties were also granted to British-American vessels, not more than two years old, proceeding, after due inspection, from their ports in America before the first day of May for the Greenland seas, and thence to some port in Britain with the produce of their fishery.

For the encouragement of the whale fishery in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and on the American coast, whale fins taken by British subjects, were permitted to be imported till the 25<sup>th</sup> of December 1786, in vessels navigated according to law, paying no other duty than that called the old subsidy. [11 *Geo. III, c. 38.*]

While this act was in contemplation, a retrospect of the Greenland whale fishery since its revival in this kingdom was produced, in order to evince the propriety of continuing the bounty for such a term of years as might indemnify the merchants for adapting their vessels, and laying in the necessary stores, for such an expensive undertaking: from that retrospect, together with the more accurate information furnished by the custom-houses of England and Scotland, I have drawn up the following account.

The Greenland fishery, after having been many years abandoned by the English, was revived in the year 1725 by the South-sea company, who carried it on with very great loss to themselves till the year 1733.

For the encouragement of adventurers, the government then offered a bounty of 20s/a tun, which in seven years after was raised to 30s: yet there were only from three to six vessels employed in the fishery from the year 1733 till 1749.

In the year 1750 the bounty of 40s/a tun took place; and after that time the vessels which sailed from England and Scotland for the Greenland seas, their tunnage, and the bounties paid to them in each year, were as follows.

| FROM ENGLAND. |          |              |        |      | FROM SCOTLAND. |          |              |      |  |
|---------------|----------|--------------|--------|------|----------------|----------|--------------|------|--|
| Vessels.      | Tunnage. | Bounty paid. | Years. |      | Vessels.       | Tunnage. | Bounty paid. |      |  |
| 19            | 6,264    | £10,507      | 3 3    | 1750 | 1              | 333      | £666         | 0 0  |  |
| 23            | 7,360    | 16,530       | 19 10  | 1751 | 6              | 1,933    | 3,866        | 2 11 |  |
| 30            | 9,971    | 17,231       | 9 5    | 1752 | 10             | 3,137    | 6,274        | 2 11 |  |
| 35            | 11,814   | 27,693       | 0 11   | 1753 | 14             | 4,294    | 8,589        | 5 0  |  |
| 52            | 17,235   | 31,328       | 6 9    | 1754 | 15             | 4,680    | 9,361        | 5 0  |  |
| 66            | 21,293   | 45,634       | 18 8   | 1755 | 16             | 4,964    | 9,929        | 5 0  |  |
| 67            | 21,328   | 42,103       | 1 0    | 1756 | 16             | 4,964    | 9,315        | 5 0  |  |
| 55            | 17,221   | 34,450       | 0 8    | 1757 | 15             | 4,530    | 8,567        | 13 4 |  |
| 52            | 15,399   | 27,006       | 6 1    | 1758 | 15             | 4,499    | 8,271        | 13 4 |  |
| 34            | 10,337   | 19,273       | 18 1   | 1759 | 15             | 4,479    | 8,959        | 13 4 |  |
| 40            | 12,082   | 20,540       | 5 6    | 1760 | 14             | 4,238    | 8,477        | 13 4 |  |
| 31            | 9,789    | 19,247       | 15 8   | 1761 | 14             | 4,238    | 8,477        | 13 4 |  |
| 28            | 8,877    | 13,358       | 6 9    | 1762 | 14             | 4,238    | 8,045        | 13 4 |  |
| 30            | 9,416    | 18,465       | 15 9   | 1763 | 10             | 3,109    | 5,619        | 0 0  |  |
| 32            | 10,261   | 19,463       | 16 1   | 1764 | 10             | 3,140    | 6,281        | 0 0  |  |
| 33            | 10,099   | 18,748       | 17 9   | 1765 | 8              | 2,559    | 5,119        | 0 0  |  |
| 35            | 10,615   | 19,947       | 2 5    | 1766 | 9              | 2,797    | 5,595        | 0 0  |  |
| 39            | 12,284   | 24,537       | 9 2    | 1767 | 9              | 2,797    | 5,595        | 0 0  |  |
| 41            | 12,802   | 24,026       | 18 1   | 1768 | 9              | 2,797    | 5,595        | 0 0  |  |
| 44            | 13,471   | 24,935       | 12 11  | 1769 | 9              | 2,797    | 5,595        | 0 0  |  |
| 50            | 14,775   | 29,240       | 18 11  | 1770 | 9              | 2,797    | 5,595        | 0 0  |  |

The fishery from Great Britain is carried on by ships which are, upon an average, of 300 tons burthen\*, and carry 54 men, of whom 6 are apprentices, and is thus a very great nursery of the most hardy seamen. The American fishery is carried on by shalops, carrying about 6 men, and in a great measure by the Eskimeaux Indians, from whom the American colonists purchase the oil and fins, which are much inferior to those brought from the Greenland seas, the oil being adulterated with a mixture of seal and cod oil, and the fins brittle. Besides, all the oil and fins which can be supplied by America, though they were of the best quality, are far short of the demand: and thence it follows, that, if the British fishery is given up, as it must be if the bounty is discontinued, we must depend almost entirely upon the Dutch, who may charge what prices they please, (and in fact they have charged as high as £700 a tun for whale fins) which must make a prodigious annual drain of money from this country†.

Such were the facts and the arguments which induced the legislature to continue the bounty on the whale fishery.

The crime of counterfeiting the copper money of the realm, which had hitherto been punished only as a misdemeanour, was now made felony. [11 *Geo. III, c. 40.*]

The importation of all kinds of unmanufactured wood of the growth or produce of America, was permitted free of duty; and the importers of some parcels of Honduras mahogany, landed after the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1770, were warranted to receive back the duties they had paid on them.

Goods from the Levant liable to infection, if imported without clean bills of health, were prohibited from being landed in Great Britain, Ireland, or any of the adjacent islands. In order to remove the doubt, whether raw silk and mohair yarn, shipped in places subject to the Grand Signior, and landed at any port of the Mediterranean for the purpose of being aired, are to be considered as imported from such intermediate port, it was enacted, that goods so circumstanced are to be admitted to entry as coming from the port where they were first shipped. [11 *Geo. III, c. 41.*]

In order to reduce the price of staves and heading, the importation of them from America was encouraged by bounties proportioned to their size, to commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1772. The ports appointed for importation upon this bounty, were London, Southampton, Poole, Exeter, Plymouth, Bristol, Liverpool, Whitehaven, Glasgow, Leith, Newcastle, Hull, and Yarmouth. [11 *Geo. III, c. 50.*]

\* The total tunnage of the 32 ships from England in 1764 was 10,262 tuns, and that of the 50 ships in 1770 was 14,778. The blubber imported by the 32 ships was 670½ tuns, and by the 50 ships 2,238 tuns.

† About this time there was a very great consumption of whale bone, or fins, in very stiff stays for the ladies. That rage has now greatly abated: thanks to the writings of Doctor Buchan, and the good sense of the ladies.

The several acts—for regulating laftage and balaftage in the River Thames;—for admitting rum, and other fpirits, imported from the Britifh fugar iflands, to be ftored without paying down the excife duty;—for the punifhment of perfons armed or difguifed, acting in defiance of the revenue laws;—for preventing the defftruction of the roads within ten miles of London by overloading waggons or carts;—and for exporting barley (or bigg) from Orkney to Portugal, were continued for limited times. [11 *Geo. III, c. 51.*]

The harbours in the ifle of Mann were formerly fupported by duties levied under the authority of the ffatutes of the ifland upon the contraband trade. Thefe, fince the fovereignty of the ifland has been in the king's hands, having entirely ceafed, the harbours of the ifland were confequently now in a ruinous condition, and unfit to afford a refuge to fhips taken by fudden or crofs gales of wind. Therefor, as a fund for their improvement, certain regulated harbour-dues were allowed to be taken from all veffels arriving in the ifland; and alfo fmall duties upon fpirits, tobacco, tea, coffee, wine, and other foreign goods, except falt.

The bounties granted by a former aft to the boats employed in the herring fifhery on the coaft of Mann, and on the linen manufacture, being made payable out of duties arifing from the herring fifhery itfelf, were found ineffectual, only about a tenth part of the fifhermen in the ifland having conformed to the regulations required, and they were therefor repealed; but the duties were continued, and added to the funds for the reparation of the harbours. [11 *Geo. III, c. 52.*]

Several acts were paffed for improvements in various parts of London and the fuburbs; as alfo in Wincheffter, Worceffter, Edinburgh, Leith, Wakefield, &c. Many acts for inland navigation, and for roads, in various parts of the united kingdoms were alfo paffed in the courfe of this feflion.

Among thefe it ought not to be omitted, as one of many proofs of the increafing opulence of the commercial town of Liverpool, that a theatre-royal, fanced by aft of parliament, was now erected in it.

The governor of New-York was authorized, by inftructions from home, to grant a leafe to Mr. Philipfe of all royal mines of gold and filver, difcovered, or to be difcovered, within the manor of Philipfeburgh in that province.

In confequence of an application to the king by the royal fociety, Lieutenant Cook (who has already been noticed for his accurate charts of Newfoundland) failed from Plymouth in Auguff 1768, in order to make, in conjunction with Mr. Green of the royal obfervatory at Greenwich, an accurate obfervation on the tranfit of Venus over the fun in a fouthern latitude. After making the obfervation on the tranfit on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 1769 at the ifland of Otaheité, in the courfe of his

voyage he discovered many islands in the great Pacific ocean hitherto totally unknown to any European, made observations on others that were erroneously described, and particularly explored the coasts of the great island (or continent) of New-Holland, and completed the circumnavigation of the globe by returning round the Cape of Good Hope to England, where he arrived in July this year. Mr. Banks and Doctor Solander were induced by their thirst of knowledge to partake of the hardships and the glory of this *voyage of science*.

The indigo made in the province of East-Florida was now of so good a quality, that some of what was brought home this year sold by public sale at Garraway's coffeehouse so high as 8/9 a pound.

The East-India company appointed their midsummer dividend to be at the rate of *twelve and a half* per cent per annum, being the highest rate now allowed by act of parliament.

September—The following was said to be the state of the company's trading stock at this time.

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| After all debts are paid, a balance of cash, -        | £ 220,000  |
| Goods imported last year, in the warehouses, -        | 1,500,000  |
| Cargoes of 18 ships arrived this year, by estimate, - | 2,300,000  |
| Cargoes of 11 ships daily expected, by estimate, -    | 1,500,000  |
|   | <hr/>      |
|   | £5,500,000 |

To which may be added the cargoes of 37 ships of last year for India, and the goods provided in India and China for their homeward cargoes.

December 3<sup>d</sup>—The king of Spain issued an ordinance, very prejudicial to the manufactures and commerce of Great Britain, wherein he prohibited the importation of cotton velvets, and all stuffs having cotton in their fabric, the use of which he ordered to be totally laid aside in twenty-two months.

A new cement for the bottoms of ships, said to be proof against the worms, was tried at Chatham, and approved.

Mr. Bernieres, director of the bridges and causeways in France, invented a boat incapable of being sunk or overset, fit for inland navigation, coasting voyages, and short passages by sea.

By accounts received from Grenada, the following was the state of the infant colony of Tobago on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June this year.

There were 243 white people, and 4,716 negro slaves, of whom 547 were esteemed worthy of being trusted with arms; and there were besides 125 runaway negroes, of whom only 19 were thought dangerous. The number of acres of cleared land was 7,171, and of land in canes 2,347. The produce of this year was 724 hogsheads of sugar, and 453 puncheons of rum. The produce of the ensuing year was expected to be 3,372 hogsheads of sugar and 1,850 puncheons of rum.

December 27<sup>th</sup>—The greatest part of the town of St. Georges in Grenada was destroyed by fire. The damage was estimated at £200,000, of which £60,000 were insured in London. If it had happened at almost any other season, the damage must have been much greater, this being the season, when there is the least produce in the stores.

The following account of the linen cloth and linen yarn exported from Ireland, taken at intervals of ten years from the commencement of the eighteenth century, and thenceforth annually, is extracted from an account laid before the Irish parliament by Mr. Archdall, inspector to the trustees of the linen manufacture, in order to show the progress of the staple manufacture of that kingdom.

| Years<br>ending<br>Ladyday. | Linen Cloth.   |                   |                | Linen Yarn.  |  |              |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|--|--------------|
|                             | Quantity.      | Average<br>Price. | Value.         | Quantity.    |  | Value.       |
|                             | Yards.         |                   | £. s. d.       | cwt. qr. lb. |  | £. s. d.     |
| 1710                        | 1,688,574      | 1/3               | 105,537 17 6   | 7,975 2 12   |  | 47,853 12 0  |
| 1720                        | 2,437,984      | 1/                | 121,899 4 0    | 15,722 1 11  |  | 94,334 1 0   |
| 1730                        | 4,136,203 1/2  | 1/                | 206,810 3 6    | 10,088 1 9   |  | 55,485 15 9  |
| 1740                        | 6,627,771 1/2  | 1/4               | 441,851 8 8    | 18,542 3 8   |  | 111,256 18 0 |
| 1750                        | 11,200,460     | 1/2               | 653,369 3 4    | 22,373 0 5   |  | 134,238 5 0  |
| 1760                        | 13,375,456 1/2 | 1/4               | 891,697 1 8    | 31,042 1 15  |  | 186,254 5 0  |
| 1761                        | 12,048,881 1/2 |                   | 803,258 15 4   | 39,699 2 25  |  | 238,198 5 0  |
| 1762                        | 15,559,676     |                   | 1,037,311 14 8 | 35,950 1 25  |  | 215,702 15 0 |
| 1763                        | 16,013,105 1/2 |                   | 1,067,540 7 0  | 34,468 0 7   |  | 206,808 7 0  |
| 1764                        | 15,101,081 1/2 | 1/6               | 1,006,738 15 8 | 31,715 1 25  |  | 190,292 15 0 |
| 1765                        | 14,355,205     |                   | 1,070,640 7 6  | 26,127 0 0   |  | 156,762 0 0  |
| 1766                        | 17,892,102 1/2 |                   | 1,341,907 13 4 | 35,018 1 0   |  | 210,109 10 0 |
| 1767                        | 20,148,170 1/2 |                   | 1,511,112 15 4 | 30,274 3 0   |  | 181,648 10 0 |
| 1768                        | 18,490,019 1/2 |                   | 1,386,751 9 3  | 32,590 1 25  |  | 195,542 15 0 |
| 1769                        | 17,796,705     |                   | 1,334,302 17 6 | 37,037 0 20  |  | 222,223 0 0  |
| 1770                        | 20,560,754     |                   | 1,542,056 11 0 | 33,417 0 15  |  | 200,502 15 0 |
| 1771                        | 25,376,808     |                   | 1,903,260 12 0 | 34,166 0 15  |  | 204,996 15 0 |

The following view of the total quantities of British and Irish linens exported from England, from the commencement of the first bounty on exportation, shows the progress of the trade and the effect of the bounties upon it.

|               | Yards British Linen. | Yards Irish Linen. | Bounty.   |             |
|---------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Years of war. | 1743                 | 52,779             | 40,907    | £383 10 8   |
|               | 1744                 | 49,521             | 28,255    | 311 7 9     |
|               | 1745 *               | 56,240             | 101,928   | 747 17 6    |
|               | 1746                 | 175,928            | 695,002   | 4,188 10 9  |
|               | 1747                 | 238,014            | 595,277   | 4,290 12 0  |
|               | 1748                 | 330,717            | 723,663   | 5,594 1 10  |
| Peace.        | 1749                 | 414,834            | 965,897   | 8,615 1 4   |
|               | 1750                 | 588,874            | 742,032   | 8,308 16 8  |
|               | 1751                 | 527,976            | 854,490   | 8,617 8 2   |
|               | 1752                 | 437,277            | 968,319   | 8,775 13 10 |
|               | 1753                 | 641,510            | 1,039,967 | 10,058 16 5 |
|               | 1754                 | 1,382,796          | 843,973   | 13,905 7 11 |
|               | 1755                 | 41,367             | 51,040    | 577 11 0    |

\* This year the bounty was raised to three halfpence per yard, and extended to all linens from 5d to 1/6 a yard.

|               | Yards British Linen. | Yards Irish Linen. | Bounty.      |
|---------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Years of war. | 1756 394,746         | 719,135            | £6,932 11 8  |
|               | 1757 1,016,754       | 2,005,375          | 18,847 3 8   |
|               | 1758 1,942,667       | 2,171,109          | 25,690 15 4  |
|               | 1759 1,693,087       | 1,956,572          | 22,807 11 1  |
|               | 1760 1,413,602       | 2,352,585          | 23,538 13 1  |
|               | 1761 1,272,985       | 1,819,329          | 19,324 11 3  |
|               | 1762 1,762,643       | 2,930,476          | 29,331 19 10 |
| Peace.        | 1763 2,308,310       | 2,588,564          | 30,604 6 9   |
|               | 1764 2,134,733       | 1,858,780          | 24,863 9 3   |
|               | 1765 2,095,933       | 1,663,670          | 23,497 10 4  |
|               | 1766 2,236,086       | 1,770,634          | 25,042 0 0   |
|               | 1767 2,444,181       | 2,227,124          | 29,182 6 11  |
|               | 1768 2,687,457       | 2,270,160          | 30,985 2 1   |
|               | 1769 3,056,950       | 1,855,159          | 30,699 3 5   |
|               | 1770 * 3,216,506     | 2,707,482          | 36,972 18 4  |
|               | 1771 4,411,040       | 3,450,224          | 44,738 8 10  |

Unluckily I have not materials at hand to complete the linen exports of all Britain by adding those of Scotland. As a specimen I shall here give those of Glasgow, the principal port of foreign trade, for the year 1771, from *Gibson's History of Glasgow*, pp. 213-234.

|                       |   |                       |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| British linen         | - | 2,175,431 yards.      |
| Irish linen           | - | 731,012               |
| Checks and stripes    | - | 362,894               |
| Kenting (or Ghenting) | - | 46,385                |
| Printed               | - | 80,280½ square yards. |

Total British and Irish linens - 3,396,002½

Besides some German and Russia linens.

Of these 51,837 yards were exported to Ireland, while at the same time 1,100,291 yards were imported from that country; a proof that manufactures, which are sometimes too inconsiderately supposed hurtful rivals, may be mutually beneficial.

In order to make the view of the linen trade more complete, subjoined is a state of the imports of foreign linens in England for ten years back, with the amount of the duties paid on them.

|      | British yards. | Duties.       |
|------|----------------|---------------|
| 1762 | 18,827,853½    | £134,031 14 1 |
| 1763 | 26,634,851     | 185,476 19 4  |
| 1764 | 28,092,215½    | 201,711 3 7   |
| 1765 | 25,497,795½    | 182,997 0 11  |
| 1766 | 25,624,107½    | 184,657 1 2   |
| 1767 | 21,054,411     | 164,532 8 10  |
| 1768 | 23,112,349     | 199,467 0 10  |
| 1769 | 25,431,162½    | 217,386 9 0   |
| 1770 | 27,101,343½    | 221,333 8 9   |
| 1771 | 28,243,121½    | 230,951 14 2† |

\* The bounty of three halfpence was now extended to sheetings and table-linens, to be computed by the square yard; and a new bounty of one halfpenny per yard was allowed on British checks and stripes from 7d to 1/6 a yard.

† Mr. Paine the governor of the bank of Eng-

land, when examined in the house of commons on the subject of foreign linens, stated the imports of these years somewhat higher than they are here given: and he made the average quantity from the year 1752 to 1756 inclusive to be 31,000,000 of yards annually.



An attentive perusal of the foregoing details may afford ample matter for reflection; and it may perhaps appear doubtful, if all the home-made linens of the three kingdoms much exceeded the quantity of foreign linens, imported under the disadvantage of such heavy duties\*.

Mr. Swallow, the British consul at Petersburg, in his periodical report, stated, that 363 British vessels, and 255 of all other nations, had sailed from that port in the course of this year. Their cargoes consisted of iron, hemp, flax, hides, bristles, isinglass, tallow, soap, hempseed, and lintseed oils, wax, wax and tallow candles, caviary, cordage, tobacco, leather, feathers, wheat, flour, tar, great variety of linens, ducks, drills, and sailcloths, deals, and the skins of hares, bears, squirrels, martins, fables, and foxes.

The Dutch were very successful in their Greenland fishery this year. They had 120 ships employed, which brought home 500 whales, and 14,320 barrels of oil. Three ships were lost, after having caught 15 whales.

By an account laid before the house of commons it appeared, that from the year 1750 to the year 1771, both years inclusive, there were 29,131 horses exported from England, of which 7,783 during the war, and 21,348 before and after it in years of peace.

The quantity of tobacco imported in Glasgow this year was above 46 millions of pounds, and the quantity exported nearly 44 millions, besides several cargoes belonging to the Glasgow merchants, ordered to proceed direct from Virginia and Maryland to London †.

There belonged this year to all the ports  
 of England 7,645 vessels of the reputed burthen of 577,176 tuns.  
 and of Scotland 1,503 - - - 88,452

Total 9,148 - - - 665,628.

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain, from and to foreign countries, including repeated voyages,

|           | British. |         | Foreign. |         | Total.   |          |
|-----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
|           | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.    |
| Inward -  | 7,380    | 732,309 | 1,171    | 139,164 | 8,551    | 871,473. |
| Outward - | 9,542    | 875,892 | 562      | 66,556  | 10,104   | 942,448  |

\* I should certainly run a great risk, if I were to presume to say, that it is not altogether unworthy of consideration—What would be the consequence to our home manufactures in general, and to our export trade, if the importation of foreign linens were entirely, or nearly, free of duty? The reader will see some opinions, though perhaps not quite disinterested, on that subject in the year 1774.

† The tobacco trade of Glasgow for this year is given, not as being remarkably great or small, but as being the principal article of the imports and exports of that city, whereof Gibson in his *History of Glasgow* [pp. 213-235] has given a minute detail for this year. I find, however, that the importation of this year was the largest that was ever made in the Clyde, except that of the year 1775.

The net amount of the customs, including the West-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the course of this year, was  
 from the custom-house in London, £2,638,129 8 4  
 and from the custom-house in Edinburgh, 4,000 0 0

Total net revenue of the customs of Great Britain, £2,642,129 8 4

There were coined at the mint in the course of this year  
 13,650 pounds of gold, value £637,796 5 0  
 and no silver.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Christmas 1770 to Christmas 1771, was as follows.

| Countries, &c.             | Imported into   |               | Exported from   |              |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                            | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.     | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.    |
| Africa - -                 | £97,486 19 3    |               | £712,539 7 4    |              |
| Canaries - -               | 6,803 18 10     |               | 23,825 9 8      |              |
| Denmark, &c. - -           | 83,711 6 4      | £31,744 14 6  | 152,340 0 5     | £29,750 6 6  |
| East country - -           | 195,357 0 2     |               | 95,961 19 11    |              |
| East-India - -             | 1,882,139 5 9   |               | 1,184,824 13 11 |              |
| Flanders - -               | 142,138 2 6     |               | 861,777 16 7    | 92,667 5 5   |
| France - -                 | 51,645 8 11     | 2,879 7 10    | 146,128 3 2     | 355,991 18 6 |
| Germany - -                | 765,774 2 0     | 26,134 10 8   | 1,316,492 1 4   | 97,027 6 6   |
| Greenland - -              | 13,803 5 10     | 646 14 8      | 10 6 3          |              |
| Holland - -                | 428,080 1 7     | 121,930 10 10 | 1,685,397 16 0  | 383,272 5 1  |
| Ireland - -                | 1,380,737 14 11 | 173,980 2 3   | 1,983,818 17 6  | 432,366 16 3 |
| Mann - -                   |                 | 250 8 4       |                 | 308 9 0      |
| Italy - -                  | 947,138 12 8    | 3,237 12 8    | 782,582 15 7    | 8,727 2 11   |
| Madeira - -                | 2,067 18 2      | 56 1 1        | 11,213 17 9     |              |
| Poland - -                 |                 | 13,174 18 9   |                 | 653 4 8      |
| Prussia - -                |                 | 8,721 19 10   |                 | 5 4 0        |
| Portugal - -               | 354,631 10 7    | 17,136 6 8    | 716,122 3 5     | 1,270 2 0    |
| Russia - -                 | 1,274,620 12 0  | 123,504 12 5  | 150,159 16 6    | 1,805 6 5    |
| Spain - -                  | 568,323 11 3    | 9,230 0 8     | 1,224,811 11 10 | 9,244 16 7   |
| Straits - -                | 3,604 13 6      |               | 153,323 16 11   |              |
| Gibraltar - -              |                 | 2 14 3        |                 | 755 16 9     |
| Sweden - -                 | 157,851 10 1    | 26,723 8 3    | 64,180 0 1      | 5,107 7 5    |
| Turkey - -                 | 100,443 2 9     |               | 20,573 15 3     |              |
| Venice - -                 | 83,335 0 2      |               | 73,956 18 1     |              |
| Guernsey, &c. - -          | 56,802 13 11    | 1,735 0 3     | 38,565 7 4      | 60 0 0       |
| America in general - -     |                 | 611,583 1 2   |                 | 375,510 15 8 |
| Hudson's bay - -           | 9,225 18 0      |               | 5,822 1 8       |              |
| Newfoundland - -           | 49,424 18 8     |               | 89,394 1 7      |              |
| Cape Breton - -            | 14 9 5          |               |                 |              |
| Quebec - -                 | 37,286 12 8     |               | 170,962 8 11    |              |
| Nova-Scotia - -            | 3,451 14 3      |               | 51,581 12 8     |              |
| New-England - -            | 150,381 17 2    |               | 1,420,119 1 1   |              |
| New-York - -               | 95,875 8 11     |               | 653,621 7 6     |              |
| Pennsylvania - -           | 31,615 19 9     |               | 728,744 19 10   |              |
| Virginia and Maryland - -  | 577,848 16 6    |               | 920,326 3 8     |              |
| Carolina - -               | 420,311 14 8    |               | 409,169 9 4     |              |
| Georgia - -                | 63,810 10 9     |               | 70,493 19 3     |              |
| Florida - -                | 21,856 11 11    |               | 66,647 9 11     |              |
| West-Indies in general - - |                 | 213,656 16 9  |                 | 60,922 12 2  |
| Antigua - -                | 180,923 3 0     |               | 118,152 10 11   |              |
| Barbados - -               | 163,053 1 4     |               | 120,011 0 3     |              |
| Bermuda - -                | 836 8 3         |               | 8,645 15 9      |              |

| Countries, &c.                               | Imported into |      |                | Exported from |       |               |
|--|---------------|------|----------------|---------------|-------|---------------|
|  | ENGLAND.      |      | SCOTLAND.      | ENGLAND.      |       | SCOTLAND.     |
| Dominica - -                                 | 170,623       | 19 3 |                | 55,612        | 2 3   |               |
| Grenada - -                                  | 361,839       | 10 7 |                | 138,431       | 6 6   |               |
| Jamaica - -                                  | 1,261,675     | 7 9  |                | 494,888       | 0 10  |               |
| Montserrat - -                               | 63,034        | 4 8  |                | 15,642        | 0 6   |               |
| Nevis - -                                    | 67,291        | 3 2  |                | 19,751        | 7 1   |               |
| St. Christophers -                           | 268,276       | 16 8 |                | 95,442        | 17 10 |               |
| St. Vincents - -                             | 123,919       | 4 5  |                | 35,200        | 1 11  |               |
| Tobago - -                                   | 7,091         | 2 7  |                | 28,610        | 14 11 |               |
| Tortola - -                                  | 41,466        | 4 1  |                | 20,969        | 5 0   |               |
| New-Providence -                             | 7,837         | 0 3  |                |               |       |               |
| St. Croix - -                                | 4,685         | 16 2 |                |               |       |               |
| St. Thomas - -                               | 447           | 7 1  |                |               |       |               |
| St. Eustathius - -                           | 1,406         | 2 11 |                |               |       |               |
| Foreign West-Indies<br>and Bay of Honduras } | 39,988        | 0 9  |                | 4,301         | 0 2   | 1,887 7 5     |
| Imp. and exp. of England                     | 12,821,995    | 16 9 |                | 17,161,146    | 14 2  |               |
| Imp. and exp. of Scotland                    | 1,386,329     | 1 10 | 1,386,329 1 10 | 1,857,334     | 3 3   | 1,857,334 3 3 |
| Total, Great Britain -                       | 14,208,324    | 18 7 |                | 19,018,480    | 17 5  |               |

1772—This winter the Dutch were in the greatest distress for want of corn and cattle, having received little or no supply from Poland, the usual great granary of the north (which was now ravaged and desolated by the inroads of the neighbouring powers) or from any other of the corn or pasture countries; whereupon the small quantity of provisions they possessed, or obtained, rose to a most enormous price. Such, notwithstanding the opinion of a very great political economist, must sometimes be the consequence of a nation depending entirely upon others for the first of necessities, even though there should be the most unbounded freedom of commerce in their ports.

A large quantity of the Portuguese gold pieces, usually called half-joes, was carried into the province of Quebec from the neighbouring provinces in the spring of this year, which, being deficient in weight, produced great inconvenience in the trade of the country.

Louis de St. Pierre represented to government, that he had at the expense of his whole fortune brought to perfection the culture of silk and the making of wine at New Bourdeaux in South-Carolina, and that he had now 100,000 vine plants, and above twenty additional families of French protestants, ready to embark with him for that country. But being unable of himself to support the expense, he prayed for some assistance from government. On his case being referred by the treasury to the lords of trade for their consideration, they recommended Mr. de St. Pierre as deserving public encouragement and support; and the governor of South-Carolina was afterwards directed to put him in possession of 5,000 acres of unlocated land.

In the meantime the society for the encouragement of arts, commerce, &c. had testified their approbation of Mr. de St. Pierre's industry.

and their satisfaction in his specimens of wine and silk, by an honorary gold medal and a premium of fifty pounds.

February—The king of France issued orders for the payment of all the Canada reconnoissances, or bills, which were the property of British subjects\*.

As the charter of the Danish East India company expired this spring, it was renewed for twenty years. The trade with China was secured exclusively to the company: but every subject of Denmark, and even foreigners, upon condition of employing Danish-built vessels, shipping a certain value of Danish manufactures, and paying certain duties to the company, were permitted to trade to all the Danish settlements in India, and from one port of India to another. The company also were obliged by their charter to export a certain value of Danish manufactures in every ship consigned to China, and a larger amount in each one for India.

March—The king of Denmark erected a new light-house at Natchehovet near Helsingoer, and another on the tower of his palace of Cronenburg, both to be lighted for the first time on the first day of April 1772: and in order to reimburse himself for the erection of these lights, he directed the officers of his revenue to charge one dollar on loaded ships and half a dollar on empty ones, being an addition of one quarter upon the light-money hitherto paid. He also ordered proper charts of the adjacent coasts to be published, and to be delivered at the custom-house of Ore-sund, on payment of twenty-four shillings Danish (one shilling sterling).

Previous to carrying these orders into execution he gave notice of them to the British ambassador by a note, wherein he depends on the equity of his Britannic Majesty for his consent to this additional charge, as being for the general advantage of commerce.

The Baltic merchants of London approving of the lights, and thinking the additional charge reasonable, the board of trade recommended it to the king to agree to it.

April—The conservators of the Bedford level were empowered to borrow some money for carrying on their necessary works in draining, banking, &c. Regulations were also made for preserving certain fen lands in the shires of Huntingdon and Cambridge. [12 Geo. III, cc. 9, 26, 27.]

The corporation of Great Yarmouth were empowered to levy a duty on all vessels unloading within the bounds of their port, for the purpose of repairing and deepening their haven and the rivers running into it. [12 Geo. III, c. 14.]

The magistrates of Glasgow were empowered to levy a tunnage duty on all vessels (except those loaded with provisions, salt for the fishery,

\* An account of the nature of these bills has already been given under the year 1766.

and building materials, and empty vessels) for the purpose of enlarging and deepening their harbour of Port-Glasgow, now become insufficient for the increased number and enlarged burthen of their vessels. [12 Geo. III, c. 16.]

An act pretty much of the same nature enabled the magistrates of Ayr to enlarge and improve their harbour, to erect docks, light-houses, &c. their trade having also considerably increased of late years. [12 Geo. III, c. 22.]

It was made felony to burn or destroy ships of war or naval stores. [12 Geo. III, c. 24.]

The light-houses on the Spurn point, at the mouth of the Humber being found improperly situated (apparently owing to the recess of the water from the north shore of the Humber) the corporation of the Trinity house were empowered to erect new light-houses, and to retain the property of them till the duties payable should reimburse all charges; after which they are to revert to the former proprietors. [12 Geo. III, c. 29.]

In consequence of the premiums given by the city of London for bringing mackerels and herrings to market, it appeared that 3,789,192 of the former, and an innumerable quantity of the later were brought to Billingsgate in the course of the late season. The quantity of mackerel only was computed to be equal to 3,608 oxen, or about a twenty-third part of the oxen annually sold at Smithfield market.

May 21<sup>st</sup>—The free importation of rice from any of the British colonies in America was permitted till the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1773; and a duty of six pence per pound *ad valorem* was imposed on the exportation of it. [12 Geo. III, c. 32.]

Wheat, flour, rye, Indian corn, &c. were allowed to be imported free of duty from Europe or America till the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 1772. [12 Geo. III, c. 33.]

June—Several regulations were made to prevent impositions on the revenue with respect to tea, soap, low-wines, and spirits, and also vellum, parchment, paper, and playing-cards. [12 Geo. III, cc. 46, 48.]

In order to encourage the manufacture of leather, the importation of foreign oak bark, the present duty on which amounted to a prohibition, was permitted after the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 1772, on paying a duty of only one penny, when the price of bark is £10 or more for the load. [12 Geo. III, c. 50.]

In order to prevent the great consumption of timber fit for the construction of large ships of war, the East-India company were prohibited from building, or allowing to be built for their service, any new ships, till the shipping in their employment should be reduced under 45,000 tons, or employing any ships built after 18<sup>th</sup> March 1772. But they



are at liberty to build any vessel whatever in India or the colonies, or to charter any vessel built in India or the colonies \*. [12 Geo. III, c. 54.] In order to prevent the clandestine importation of goods from Ireland, it was enacted, that after the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 1772 no rum, sugar, coffee, nor other goods prohibited to be imported from Ireland to Great Britain, should be entered outwards in Ireland for Great Britain. Any person landing goods in Britain, which had been entered in Ireland for exportation to a foreign country, forfeits the vessel and triple the value of the goods. In order to prevent smuggling British plantation rum, &c. the importation of it to Ireland in vessels under seventy tons after the 29<sup>th</sup> of September was prohibited on penalty of forfeiture of the vessel: and the importation of foreign brandy, rum, or other spirits, into Ireland in vessels under a hundred tons, beyond two gallons for each man onboard, subjects the vessels and also the brandy, &c. to forfeiture. [12 Geo. III, c. 55.]

The expiring acts—for granting an allowance on the exportation of British gun-powder;—for the free importation of lumber from the American colonies;—for encouraging the manufacture of British sail-cloth;—for allowing sugars to be carried direct from the British sugar colonies to foreign parts in ships built in Great Britain, and navigated according to law;—and for permitting the free importation of cattle from Ireland, were all continued till the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 1778, and thence, as usual, to the end of the next session of parliament. [12 Geo. III, c. 56.]

The act 26 Geo. II, c. 6, was explained and amended so far as it relates to the establishment of lazarets for the reception of persons and goods liable to quarantine. [12 Geo. III, c. 57.]

For the better encouragement of the herring fishery on the coast of the isle of Mann, the importation into Great Britain of herrings, certified by the governor of the island and the custom-house officers to be really caught and cured in that island, was allowed after the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 1772, on payment of  $\frac{3}{4}$  per barrel of 32 gallons for salt herrings, and  $\frac{1}{8}$  per thousand for red herrings. In the same act some doubts respecting the bounties on the herring fishery are explained. [12 Geo. III, c. 58.]

To promote the exportation of tea, and prevent the supply of it by clandestine trade, three fifths of the duties were allowed to be drawn back upon all teas exported to Ireland or the British colonies in America in the original packages, and in vessels not under the burthen of eighty tons. In order to give British sugars a preference in the Irish

\* Many people, acquainted with the state of the oak woods through different parts of the kingdom, had lately asserted, that there was everywhere an alarming diminution of the quantity of serviceable timber. One gentleman went so far as to say, that we were in danger of being no longer a maritime nation.



markets, the drawback hitherto allowed on foreign sugars carried from Great Britain to Ireland was stopped. Cordage, made in Great Britain from British or foreign hemp (not American), exported to any part of the continent of Europe, was entitled to a continuation of the bounty granted by the act 6 *Geo. III*, c. 45. The liberty of importing rice from the British colonies in America into several ports for immediate exportation to foreign parts was extended to Bristol, Liverpool, Lancaster, and Whitehaven. [12 *Geo. III*, c. 60.]

Several regulations were made for making, keeping, and conveying, the dangerous article of gun-powder. [12 *Geo. III*, c. 61.]

The marine society, an association of gentlemen, who since the year 1756 had contributed for the charitable and political purposes of fitting out destitute boys and landsmen for the sea service onboard the navy or merchant ships, were now incorporated with the usual powers and privileges. The boys placed out as apprentices by them were exempted from being impressed while under eighteen years of age, and privileged to exercise any trade in any part of Great Britain or Ireland. [12 *Geo. III*, c. 67.]

Parliament gave a reward of £5,000 to Doctor Charles Irving for making public his art of freshening sea water, so as to make it fit for drinking; a discovery of the utmost importance to all seafaring people.

It was determined to pay off £1,500,000 of the three-per-cent annuities, established under the various names of three per cents consolidated, reduced, South-sea, and three per cents of 1751, to such persons as should in due time signify their consent to receive at the rate of £90 for £100 of the capital; the money, amounting altogether to £1,350,000 to be paid in equal moieties on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July and 20<sup>th</sup> of October 1772, together with the interest or dividend to the 5<sup>th</sup> of July. And as an inducement to accept these terms, each proprietor of £100 stock, upon signing such agreement, became entitled to four lottery tickets at the price of £12:10:0. [12 *Geo. III*, c. 70.]

‘Whereas it hath been found by experience, that the restraints laid by several statutes upon the dealing in corn, meal, flour, cattle, and fundry other sorts of victuals, by preventing a free trade in the said commodities, have a tendency to discourage the growth, and to enhance the price, of the same; which statutes, if put in execution, would bring a great distress upon the inhabitants of many parts of this kingdom, and in particular upon those of the cities of London and Westminster,’ the parliament wisely repealed several well-intended, but ill-contrived, laws for restricting and regulating the dealers in butter, cheese, milk, corn, cattle, &c. [12 *Geo. III*, c. 71.]

By the law of Scotland any creditor could arrest the effects of his debtor in the hands of a third person, and thereby, in case of bankruptcy, carry off the property to the prejudice of other creditors, and

particularly of those, who, living in distant places, could not have such early or certain knowledge of the circumstances and connections of the debtor. The now enlarged commercial connections of Scotland rendered this partial mode of proceeding, which was a total bar against distant creditors having a chance of obtaining any share in the effects of a bankrupt, a greater and more extensive grievance than formerly; and therefor new regulations were made by parliament, whereby all creditors upon proving their debts were entitled to an equal proportion of the effects of their debtor. At the same time, for the further advantage of trade, the summary execution and other privileges, due to bills of exchange and inland bills, were, after the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1772, extended to promissory notes in Scotland. [12 Geo. III, c. 72.]

In this session many acts were also passed for improving the streets, buildings, and police, of London and other cities and towns in England and Scotland; as also many acts for inland navigation, roads, and bridges, throughout the united kingdom.

The admiral on the American station had placed an armed schooner at Providence in Rhode-island to protect the trade and suppress smuggling. The very active exertions of the officer, who commanded this vessel, so provoked the people of the place, that a party of them, supposed to be about two hundred, boarded the schooner at midnight, took the people out of her, and set her on fire (10<sup>th</sup> June). Such a gross affront to government was highly resented at home, and in America it contributed greatly to widen the breach between the people of the country and those in the service of government, and perhaps to accelerate the opener hostilities which afterwards took place.

There were some great bankruptcies in London, which produced very general distress, and for some time struck an universal panic, till the principal merchants had a meeting (June), at which they concerted measures for checking the progress of the evil, by which means, together with the judicious interposition of the bank of England, the calamity was happily prevented from spreading so wide as it must otherwise have done, the public apprehensions were quieted, and the national credit preserved.

The first great failures were followed by so many others in various parts of the kingdom, that the bankruptcies of this year amounted to the unprecedented number of 525\*.

\* There were 415 in the year 1726, 446 in 1727, and 388 in 1728. In no other year till now did they ever amount to 300, except in 1764, when there were 301. See Mr. Chalmers's elaborate table of the bankruptcies from the year 1700 to 1793 in his *Estimate of the strength of Great Britain*, p. xlv, ed. 1794. Numerous bankruptcies are frequently both the consequence and

the remedy of an over-fullness of commercial prosperity, as some disorders in the human constitution proceed from too great a confidence in a fullness of health: and the export trade of Great Britain appears to have attained a height in the years 1771 and 1772, to which it never rose before, and which it never again equaled till the year 1787.

In the year 1769 the dukes of Buckleugh and Queensberry, the earl of Dumfries, Mr. Douglas (the representative of the antient earls of Douglas) and many other gentlemen, chiefly of the west part of Scotland, entered into a partnership, and subscribed a capital of about £160,000 for carrying on the business of banking at Ayr, under the firm of Douglas, Heron, and company, with the intention of supporting and encouraging manufactures and agriculture: and the company accordingly accommodated manufacturers, land-holders, and farmers, with money with a liberality beyond the cautious prudence of other banks, in consequence of which, together with the present deranged state of credit, they found themselves unable to procure cash to answer the demands upon them (June). The partners now discovered how severely they had suffered by their public-spirited undertaking; for they lost not only their joint stock, but also sums greatly beyond the whole amount of it, which, as the bank was not constituted by public authority, they were obliged to pay out of their private estates\*. They therefor broke up their business; and in a short time thereafter they paid off the whole of their debts with interest, which they effected in part by money borrowed, but chiefly by the sum of £450,000 arising from the sale of annuities for one or two lives, with a condition of redeeming them on paying half a year's annuity over the purchase money and the annuity due at the time of redemption†.

It was not only in America that schemes for new colonies in the Indian part of that continent were in agitation‡. A petition by several gentlemen of rank and fortune in England for a grant of the country on the Ohio, to be settled by a new colony, was presented to the privy council, who, it is said, were not averse to the scheme. But before an enterprise of such magnitude could be carried into execution, the projectors of it were induced, apparently on account of the state of affairs in America, to relinquish the undertaking.

June 19<sup>th</sup>—No such causes operated to prevent the attention of individuals, or of the public, from being directed to the northern provinces of America. Henry Bostwick and others having discovered mines of copper and other metals in the Indian country adjacent to Lake Superior, they were incorporated by a charter from the king under the name of *The governor and company of adventurers for working mines in, about, and under, Lake Superior in America*, on condition of paying to the king one tenth part of all the gold, silver, copper, tin, lead, precious stones, &c. And in order to guard against the evils of stock-job-

\* It was well observed by Mr. Creech, that although this loss was hurtful to many individuals, the country was highly benefited; for the money having been bestowed principally on the improvement of the soil, the gain was lasting, and

‘general.’ [*Letters to Sir J. Sinclair in the Statistical account of Scotland*, V. vi, p. 597.]

† The annuities were redeemed in the year 1774, as will be related under that year.

‡ See above, V. iii, p. 468.

bing, so fatally attendant on such schemes in the early part of this century, no transfer of any part of the joint stock was to be permitted till five years after the erection of the company.

The reports made about this time by Mr. Scammel surveyor of the king's woods in America, and Captain Holland the geographical surveyor of the northern district of America, represent the country between St. John's river in the Bay of Fundy and Kennebeck river as one of the grandest magazines of pines, fit for masts and yards for the navy, in the world. Mr. Scammel says, he measured one, which was above seventeen feet in circumference; and he also observes, that the white oak of that country is of a very good texture for ship-building.

July 6<sup>th</sup>—In consequence of a representation from the journeymen cabinet-makers of London, setting forth that prodigious quantities of magnificent household furniture were imported from abroad on pretence of being the property of foreign ambassadors, but in reality for sale, the lords of the treasury ordered a seizure to be made of some hundreds of chairs, sofas, marble tables, tapestry, and other furniture, said to be but a small part of the goods of that kind consigned to the Venetian ambassador. He thought proper to make a demand of the goods imported under his privilege, but received for answer, that the king would not suffer his minister at Venice to infringe the Venetian laws, nor the Venetian minister here to violate the laws of Great Britain. Very different was the conduct of Prince Masserano, the Spanish ambassador, who, at a meeting of the foreign ambassadors, declared, that, as he came here to preserve, not to violate, the rights of nations, he would keep no company with any one, who would degrade himself from the dignified rank of the representative of a sovereign to the despicable character of a smuggler. In a few days after another meeting was held at Prince Masserano's house, where the foreign ministers signed a paper, to be sent to the secretaries of state, wherein they declared upon their honours, that they would permit no goods to be imported in their names but what should be truly for their own use.

August 31<sup>st</sup>—The Windward islands in the West-Indies suffered prodigiously from a hurricane of uncommon violence. In St. Christophers almost all the plantations were laid waste: the sugar mills and works, the canes and other plants, and even trees, were blown down, and all the houses in the island were either totally destroyed, or very much damaged. The ships also were driven onshore and wrecked. The distress of the island was dreadful, and it was universal.—At Antigua, the station of the ships of war allotted for the protection of the Windward islands, the admiral alone escaped being stranded, and many merchant ships foundered. The towns and houses on the plantations met with the same destruction as those of St. Christophers.—At Dominica eighteen vessels were lost.—And at Montserrat and Nevis scarcely a house escaped

destruction.—In the neighbouring foreign islands the destructive ravages of the hurricane were not less violent. In St. Eustathius 400 houses were destroyed: some of them were carried ten or twelve yards off, and a church was carried into the sea.—At Saba 180 houses were destroyed; and at St. Martins almost all the houses and plantations.—At Santa Cruz the sea assisted the wind in its ruinous operations by a dreadful rise to the height of about 70 feet, which swept away every thing in its course, and overwhelmed about 250 people. The plantations were utterly desolated, and it was apprehended, that even next year they would scarcely produce any thing, the very ground being almost destroyed by deep holes made by the falling of large trees. The damage of houses, plantations, &c. in this island was estimated at five millions of dollars (above a million of guineas).—At St. Thomas's the damage was also very considerable.

September.—The duke of Bridgewater added considerably to the utility of his canal by establishing regular passage-boats upon it, in each of which about sixty people, with a reasonable quantity of baggage allowed to every passenger, may be carried above twenty miles, as quickly as they could travel by land, for one shilling a-piece \*. Whatever facilitates mutual intercourse promotes the interests of commerce, and is therefor deserving of notice in this work.

The empress of Germany erected a light-house about 100 feet high at her port of Ostend, and also ordered a proper establishment of pilots to be constantly in readiness for the service of ships.

About this time the emperor of Morocco compelled all the Christian merchants, and also the European Jews, settled at Tetuan, to remove to Tangier, a place where there were no houses ready for their reception.

This summer some gentlemen in Virginia subscribed for the equipment of a vessel to be sent upon an attempt for a north-west passage. Under their auspices Captain Wilder sailed in the brig Diligence to the latitude of  $69^{\circ} 11'$  in a large bay, which he supposed hitherto unknown. He reported, that from the course of the tides he thought it very probable that there is a passage, but that it is seldom free of ice, and therefor impassable †.—But an *impassable passage* (if such language may be allowed) is no passage for ships.

But the impossibility of finding such a passage in any navigable sea was at the same time further demonstrated by the return in this summer of Mr. Hearne, a naval officer then in the service of the Hudson's-

\* The duke afterwards employed larger boats, carrying from 80 to 120 passengers with accommodations for different classes at the rates of 1s, 1/6, and 2/6, and each provided with a coffee-house

kept by the master, wherein his wife serves the company with wine and other refreshments.

† This Virginia voyage of discovery had escaped the diligence of Doctor Forster, the historian of voyages and discoveries in the North.



bay company, who, in consequence of some information received from the Indians, was sent by the governor of Fort Prince of Wales on a journey of discovery in the year 1770. He penetrated to the Frozen ocean at the mouth of the Copper-mine river, which he makes to be in about  $72^{\circ}$  of north latitude: and in the course of the journey he learned by conversation with the Indians, that the continent stretches from thence a prodigious way to the westward. From his journey we know for certain, that any communication between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans must be beyond the latitude of  $72^{\circ}$ : and no man will ever venture his life or property in a long coasting navigation upon a frozen ocean beyond that latitude.

October 14<sup>th</sup>—The king of Prussia, in order to encourage and extend the commerce of his subjects, established by patent a company of maritime commerce with a capital of 1,200,000 crowns in shares of 500 crowns each. And with a view to encourage his subjects, and also foreigners, to take shares in this vast capital, he took seven eighths of the whole to himself\*.

Irish linens to the amount of 1,954,496 yards were brought to London by sea, and entered at the custom-house, of which 776,625 yards were from Belfast, whence the finest linens are shipped. Besides the above great quantity, there is a continual importation to Chester, whence the linens are forwarded by land carriage to London and other places.

Notwithstanding the flourishing state of the linen manufacture in the north part of Ireland, it does not appear, that the people of that country found themselves happy at home. In the course of two years there sailed from the northern ports of Ireland for North-America,

|             |    |         |           |        |      |
|-------------|----|---------|-----------|--------|------|
| in 1771     | 32 | vessels | measuring | 8,900  | tuns |
| and in 1772 | 30 | -       |           | 8,450  |      |
|             | 62 |         |           | 17,350 |      |

It is supposed, that those vessels carried as many passengers as they measured tuns; and as most of the emigrants paid for their passage at £3:10 each, and a great proportion of them were linen manufacturers and farmers, and many of them possessed of some property, which they carried off in money, we may estimate by how many subjects, and how much treasure, these emigrations weakened the British empire in Europe, and strengthened America.

December 3<sup>d</sup>—The Swedes had formerly prohibited the importation of salt in foreign vessels. But now, in order to remove every restraint from the herring fishery, they admitted vessels of all nations, loaded with that important article, to enter the ports of the provinces of Got-

\* How it could be an encouragement to the owners of 300 shares to find themselves only as one to seven in the balance with their royal partner, I cannot conceive.



tenburg and Bahus, the coast of which had been for some years past enriched by the visits of the herrings.

December 4<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>—The acts for the free importation of all kinds of grain from Europe, Africa, and America, and of salted provisions, tallow, &c. from Europe, Ireland, and America, as also those for prohibiting the exportation of all kinds of grain, malt, flour, &c. were again renewed. [13 *Geo. III*, cc. 1-5.]

The free importation of rice from the British colonies in America to Great Britain was also permitted till the first of May 1780; and the exportation of it was subjected to a duty of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent ad valorem. By the same act all persons were at liberty to make starch of rice, notwithstanding a patent granted to William Prince for that manufacture, Mr. Prince having consented to resign his exclusive right. [13 *Geo. III*, c. 7.]

The East-India company's affairs in India stood more in need of regulation now, than when the three supervisors, who unfortunately perished on their passage, were sent out. They therefor resolved to send out other supervisors; and General Monkton, together with Messieurs Cumming, Devaynes, Lafcelles, Wier, and Wheeler, were appointed to that important trust (23<sup>d</sup> October). But before these gentlemen could proceed on their mission, they were prohibited by an act of the legislature, whereby

December 24<sup>th</sup>—The East-India company were restrained for a limited time from appointing commissioners for superintending and regulating their affairs at their presidencies in India. [13 *Geo. III*, c. 9.]

The company found it necessary, in consequence of the embarrassed state of their affairs (which will be more fully explained in the transactions of the ensuing year) to reduce their dividend from *twelve and a half*, at which rate it had been paid from Midsummer 1771 to Midsummer 1772 inclusive, to *six* per cent per annum.

Mr. Poivre \*, who had traveled over a great part of Asia as a naturalist and philosopher, having made a voyage from the French settlements in Madagascar to some islands producing spices, and independent of the Dutch, arrived in June 1770 at the Isle of France with a great number of plants of nutmeg and clove trees, as well as of the fruits themselves fit for sowing. A second, and larger, importation was made of them this year, and great hopes were conceived of their thriving in the island. But, though they were treated with the greatest care by very able botanists, most of them perished, and those that survived were of a poor quality, and afforded little prospect of success †.

\* The author of *Voyages d'un philosophe* (Travels of a philosopher) and several other valuable works.

† They appear to have thriven better after being naturalized to the soil. When Lieutenant King was at the Isle of France in August 1790,

there were 1,544 nutmeg trees and 4,163 clove trees in the king's botanic garden, ready, with many other rare plants, to be given to any of the inhabitants, who desired to cultivate them. [*Hunter's Journal at Port Jackson*, p. 446.]

Among the enormities, which took place in consequence of the dismemberment of Poland, perhaps the fate of the illustrious free city of Dantzik is the only event, which properly comes within the province of commercial history. The king of Prussia began by seizing the territory belonging to the city, the adjacent island of Holm, the two peninsulas running into the harbour, and the suburbs of the city. He then surrounded the city with custom-houses, at which he levied exorbitant duties upon every article of country produce, that was carried to market; and he imposed new duties upon imports and exports, the payments of which he enforced before the ships were allowed to come into the harbour. In open contempt of the treaties existing between Great Britain and Dantzik, by which British commerce had enjoyed considerable advantages, he raised the duties upon British imports, and particularly upon tobacco, the chief article of them, so as to amount nearly to a prohibition. Not contented with this demonstration of his gratitude to a people, who had so liberally supported him against the great powers of Austria and Russia, now his associates in the dismemberment of Poland, he erected an exclusive company vested with the sole right of importing and exporting salt, and gave to another the monopoly of bees-wax. At length the magistrates, seeing themselves hemmed in on every side, so that no corn, provisions, nor any other thing could go in or out of the city, deprived of the navigation of the Vistula \* and the Baltic sea, and also deserted by their citizens, who had fled by thousands to Sweden, France, and other countries, their trade utterly annihilated by intolerable exactions, and their interest neglected by all the numerous powers, who were bound by treaty, and even by interest, to protect them, were compelled to submit to the power of Prussia. Thus, with the ridiculously futile protection of a hundred treaties of friendship and guarantee from the various powers of Europe, fell the great and flourishing commercial city of Dantzik, a prey to the rapacity of the magnanimous and philosophic Frederik.

The spirit of independence seems this year to have pervaded and animated the whole of South America, and made the European sovereigns of that continent tremble for the safety of their dominion over those wealthy provinces. The negroes of the Dutch colony of Surinam, availing themselves of the knowledge of fire-arms they had attained by the instructions of the white people, rebelled against their masters, and repeatedly defeated the soldiers, who were sent against them. In Brazil

\* The king of Prussia was said to have extorted seven millions of dollars from the unhappy people by forcibly forestalling and monopolizing the corn brought down the Vistula or seized in the adjacent countries, which he paid for in base money, and forced the people to re-purchase with good money. Granting that even half the sum should

be placed to the account of exaggeration, it was still a pretty good stroke of plunder. The forcible transplantation of families in the stile of the antient Egyptian and Persian policy, the tribute of marriageable virgins, and the other rapacious and oppressive acts of the Prussian hero, do not belong to this work.

the negroes and Indians combined their forces, and after two obstinate battles, said to have been supported on their side with no less judgement than bravery, they were obliged to give way to superior discipline. The Portuguese are supposed to have lost seven thousand people in this war, which after all was not at an end. The spirit of revolt was too widely spread among the numerous tribes of a vast back country to be easily or quickly subdued. The Spaniards made a new attempt to settle upon the island of Chiloe, near the coast of Chili, that they might, like the dog in the manger, prevent other European nations from reaping that advantage from a friendly intercourse with the independent Indians of Chili, which the just resentment of those brave people prevents themselves from enjoying. But their frustrated attempt only served to raise up a new confederacy against the oppressors of America among the Indian nations, who in great force attacked the mines, slaughtered all the white people they found, and then laid siege to Baldivia, of which, however, they were only able to burn the suburbs. But it may be remarked, that our accounts of affairs so remote, and so jealously kept in obscurity, are far from being accurate.

Mr. Swallow, in his periodical report, observed, that in the course of this year 237 British vessels (whereof 100 for London), and 289 vessels of all other nations, sailed from Petersburg. Their cargoes consisted of the usual articles.

Between the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 1771 and the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 1772 the following vessels passed the Sound.

|          |   |       |          |   |     |            |   |    |        |
|----------|---|-------|----------|---|-----|------------|---|----|--------|
| Dutch    | - | 2,145 | Bremen   | - | 170 | French     | - | 13 | Total. |
| English  | - | 1,894 | Lubeck   | - | 38  | Courland   | - | 7  |        |
| Danish   | - | 973   | Hamburgh | - | 32  | Spanish    | - | 2  |        |
| Swedish  | - | 805   | Russian  | - | 28  | Portuguese | - | 2  |        |
| Prussian | - | 326   | Rostock  | - | 21  |            |   |    |        |
| Dantzik  | - | 211   | Imperial | - | 13  |            |   |    |        |
|          |   | 6,354 |          |   | 302 |            |   | 24 | 6,680  |

A new method of striking whales by a harpoon discharged from a swivel gun was this year tried in the Greenland fishery\*. The society of arts, desirous of encouraging every improvement in so important a fishery, gave a premium of twenty guineas to the inventor.

The quantity of coals imported into London this year was 725,008 chaldrons, which greatly exceeded the importation of any former year.

There belonged this year to all the ports

|                 |       |                                   |         |         |
|-----------------|-------|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| of England      | 7,635 | vessels of the reputed burthen of | 582,563 | tuns,   |
| and of Scotland | 1,567 | -                                 | -       | 91,890  |
| Total           | 9,202 |                                   |         |         |
|                 |       |                                   |         | 674,453 |

\* Mr. Anderson mentions such a gun being invented in the year 1731. It might notwithstanding be really invented by the person who now brought it forward to public notice.

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain,

|           | British  |         | Foreign  |         | Total    |         |
|-----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
|           | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.   |
| Inward -  | 7,698    | 757,802 | 1,143    | 136,320 | 8,841    | 894,122 |
| Outward - | 9,408    | 923,811 | 563      | 72,750  | 9,971    | 996,561 |

The net amount of the customs, including the West-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the course of the year, was from the custom-house in London - £2,525,596 3 10  
And there were no remittances from the custom-house in Edinburgh this year, the custom duties of Scotland being wholly exhausted in fishery bounties, drawbacks, and charges.

There were coined at the mint in the course of this year  
18,060 pounds of gold, value - - - £843,853 10 0  
and 108 pounds of silver, - - - - - 334 16 0

£844,188 6 0

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain, from Christmas 1771 to Christmas 1772, was as follows.

| Countries, &c.       | Imported into  |               | Exported from |              |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
|                      | ENGLAND.       | SCOTLAND.     | ENGLAND.      | SCOTLAND.    |
| Africa - - -         | £92,338 12 0   |               | £866,394 11 3 |              |
| Canaries - - -       | 12,773 10 7    |               | 32,539 7 3    |              |
| Denmark, &c. - -     | 85,521 17 2    | £27,510 3 7   | 161,972 14 3  | £24,619 19 5 |
| East country - -     | 209,189 14 5   |               | 103,661 2 5   |              |
| East-India - - -     | 2,473,192 8 2  |               | 941,361 4 5   |              |
| Flanders - - -       | 99,473 6 9     | 98 2 1        | 793,454 12 5  | 18,813 17 3  |
| France - - -         | 54,948 11 5    | 3,313 10 2    | 290,989 16 1  | 472,175 18 8 |
| Germany - - -        | 701,813 5 1    | 24,594 13 10  | 1,354,181 6 6 | 79,976 8 8   |
| Greenland - - -      | 23,449 16 5    | 10,451 7 2    | 36 15 4       |              |
| Holland - - -        | 324,901 8 8    | 102,831 8 3   | 1,997,815 1 4 | 358,132 1 10 |
| Ireland - - -        | 1,242,305 18 5 | 139,942 16 10 | 1,963,787 4 0 | 204,904 19 5 |
| Mann - - -           |                | 905 14 5      |               | 321 7 0      |
| Italy - - -          | 858,599 8 10   | 1,657 14 5    | 831,514 1 8   | 4,761 5 0    |
| Madeira - - -        | 3,330 3 8      | 203 10 5      | 12,107 2 2    |              |
| Poland - - -         |                | 8,512 7 9     |               | 222 18 4     |
| Prussia - - -        |                | 8,350 0 0     |               | 47 11 5      |
| Portugal - - -       | 347,373 11 2   | 12,818 15 11  | 635,114 4 2   | 1,237 6 9    |
| Russia - - -         | 1,008,948 11 5 | 132,005 12 5  | 139,470 15 5  | 21,386 1 6   |
| Spain - - -          | 510,637 9 1    | 8,065 17 5    | 805,038 0 1   | 7,883 2 9    |
| Straits - - -        | 13,902 15 1    |               | 141,729 8 7   |              |
| Gibraltar - - -      |                |               |               | 974 0 4      |
| Sweden - - -         | 187,826 15 2   | 24,368 19 5   | 54,698 12 9   | 1,259 7 6    |
| Turkey - - -         | 154,052 8 3    |               | 96,823 4 4    |              |
| Venice - - -         | 64,605 8 0     |               | 80,849 17 0   |              |
| Guernsey, &c. - -    | 49,551 18 0    | 1,332 11 1    | 64,135 1 2    |              |
| America in general - |                | 575,382 7 5   |               | 303,498 9 5  |
| Hudson's bay - -     | 8,005 17 1     |               | 6,381 2 9     |              |
| Newfoundland - -     | 67,625 2 11    |               | 107,822 14 0  |              |
| Cape Breton - - -    | 255 8 7        |               | 121 6 9       |              |
| Quebec - - -         | 47,995 4 4     |               | 203,779 5 6   |              |
| Nova-Scotia - - -    | 4,663 12 3     |               | 34,688 3 3    |              |

| Countries, &c.            | Imported into   |                | Exported from    |                |
|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
|                           | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.      | ENGLAND.         | SCOTLAND.      |
| New-England               | £126,265 7 6    |                | £824,830 8 9     |                |
| New-York                  | 82,707 8 6      |                | 343,970 19 9     |                |
| Pennsylvania              | 29,133 12 3     |                | 507,909 14 0     |                |
| Virginia and Maryland     | 528,404 10 6    |                | 793,910 13 2     |                |
| Carolina                  | 425,923 1 1     |                | 449,610 2 2      |                |
| Georgia                   | 66,083 16 9     |                | 92,406 4 4       |                |
| Florida                   | 15,722 17 6     |                | 40,458 2 9       |                |
| West-Indies in general    |                 | £127,918 2 0   |                  | £58,052 15 3   |
| Antigua                   | 166,351 12 4    |                | 116,074 10 11    |                |
| Barbados                  | 210,842 12 6    |                | 138,841 10 7     |                |
| Bermuda                   | 525 2 10        |                | 11,798 14 6      |                |
| Dominica                  | 215,667 7 1     |                | 60,526 14 2      |                |
| Grenada                   | 492,974 5 3     |                | 191,774 18 9     |                |
| Jamaica                   | 1,483,818 19 8  |                | 592,733 5 1      |                |
| Montserrat                | 82,873 18 2     |                | 23,334 7 8       |                |
| Nevis                     | 82,331 17 9     |                | 18,277 15 1      |                |
| St. Christophers          | 302,952 2 0     |                | 118,914 4 9      |                |
| St. Vincents              | 155,182 18 0    |                | 38,361 18 10     |                |
| Tobago                    | 19,718 19 8     |                | 36,797 4 10      |                |
| Tortola                   | 58,111 9 5      |                | 30,586 0 11      |                |
| New-Providence            | 5,817 18 9      |                | 1,564 0 9        |                |
| St. Croix                 | 24,947 18 0     |                |                  |                |
| St. Eustathius            | 815 5 0         |                |                  |                |
| Bay of Honduras           | 51,079 13 10    |                | 1,535 14 10      |                |
| Musquito shore            | 15,580 3 0      |                | 4,728 12 11      |                |
| Foreign West-Indies       |                 |                |                  | 2,468 9 1      |
| Imp. and exp. of England  | 13,298,452 2 3  |                | 16,159,412 14 4  |                |
| Imp. and exp. of Scotland | 1,210,263 14 0  | 1,210,263 14 0 | 1,560,755 19 7   | 1,560,755 19 7 |
| Total, Great Britain,     | 14,508,715 16 0 |                | 17,720,168 13 11 |                |

1773—The spirit of launching into rash and boundless projects in commerce, which were to be supported by artificial credit, and the madness of towering speculations in national funds, which carry the adventurer out of the proper sphere of trade into the unfathomable abyss of gambling, had now spread through the commercial world in most parts of Europe, and even some of the cautious and phlegmatic merchants of Holland were infected with it. The evil, which had reached its height in England in the summer of 1772, burst out on the continent in the end of that, and the beginning of the following, year, with such an extensive crash, that there seemed to be an universal wreck of credit throughout Europe, to the amount, as was supposed, of ten millions sterling. But as the greatest part of it was upon airy speculation, if those individuals, who were innocently drawn into the vortex, could have been exempted from the general ruin, it would have been perhaps rather upon the whole advantageous to the moderate and sober part of the commercial world, that such ideal transactions should be expunged and annihilated.

In this time of general distress a happy mixture of generosity and prudence in most of the trading nations, though without any previous

concert, (which the urgency of the case rendered impossible) averted many of the fatal consequences that were apprehended, and prevented the mischief from spreading so wide as it must otherways have done. The merchants in Holland, where the evil was greatest, acted on this occasion with their usual commercial wisdom. The bank of Stockholm gave support to every house of real responsibility in that city. And the empress of Russia stepped forward to ward off the impending calamity, and particularly favoured her best customers, the British merchants at Petersburg, by giving them a credit on her own banker for such sums as they should stand in need of.

The board of trade recommended to the king to permit the owners of vessels sent to catch cod on the Labrador coast, to make settlements on the shore for the seal and salmon fishery, which, being at a different season of the year from the cod fishery, can only be carried on by people settled on the land.

They also advised that a part of the Labrador coast should be detached from the government of Newfoundland, and re-annexed to that of Quebec\*.

The East-India company having found it necessary to reduce the dividend upon their capital stock to the low rate of *six* per cent, the January payment was accordingly made at that rate.

March 16<sup>th</sup>—As it would greatly advance the improvement of sugar plantations in the British West-Indies, if loans of money could be obtained from foreigners as well as from British subjects, it was made lawful for foreigners to lend money on the security of mortgages upon West-India estates at a rate of interest not exceeding *five per cent*, and to have the same rights in recovering such debts as if they were British subjects, even though their own countries should be at war with Great Britain. [13 *Geo. III*, c. 14.]

Hitherto the children of British subjects residing in foreign countries, and being protestants, were entitled to the privileges of British subjects, notwithstanding their being born out of the king's dominions; but not the children of such foreign-born subjects, who were considered as aliens. But now the privileges of British subjects were extended to these grandchildren of British-born subjects. [13 *Geo. III*, c. 21.]

The corporation of the city of London, considering the high price of corn, offered a bounty of 4/ a quarter for the first 20,000 quarters of foreign wheat of a proper quality, which should be imported in London between 30<sup>th</sup> March and 30<sup>th</sup> June next.

They also presented a petition to the house of commons, setting forth the pernicious consequences of lotteries, and praying that they might be laid aside, especially in time of peace.

\* The advice was followed, and the re-annexation ratified by act of parliament in the following year.



April—The act [6 *Geo. III*, c. 22] for regulating the loading of ships with coals at Newcastle and Sunderland, being found useful, was prolonged for seven years more. [13 *Geo. III*, c. 22.]

To prevent abuses in the sales of parts of British vessels to foreigners, no person, who is not a natural-born British subject, is allowed to purchase any share of a British vessel without the consent of the owners of three fourths of the value of the vessel, expressed in writing on the back of the register. [13 *Geo. III*, c. 26.]

The magistrates of Greenock, having represented the increase of the number and size of their shipping in consequence of the great increase of their commerce, obtained an act for levying duties similar to those granted in the last session of parliament for the improvement of the neighbouring harbour of Port-Glasgow, in order to deepen their harbour, to erect new piers, to bring in an additional supply of fresh water to the town, and to pave, light, cleanse, and watch, the streets. [13 *Geo. III*, c. 28.]

The magistrates of Aberdeen were invested with a similar power of levying duties for the improvement of their harbour by new piers, in consequence of the increased trade of their city, and for regulating their pilots. [13 *Geo. III*, c. 29.]

The magistrates of King's Lynn, having represented the dangerous state of the navigation of their harbour in consequence of the shifting of the sands, obtained power to levy a duty for improving their harbour, fixing harbour-moorings, &c. and also to regulate their pilots. [13 *Geo. III*, c. 30.]

The enlargement and improvement of harbours is a sure proof of the increase of commerce.

As felons and malefactors, by flying from England to Scotland, and from Scotland to England, used to elude justice, it was now enacted, that such persons should be apprehended, and sent back to the place whence they had fled. [13 *Geo. III*, c. 31.]

Before this regulation took place, the two kingdoms could scarcely be said to be united.

A society of gentlemen were incorporated for twenty-one years, by the name of *The governor and company of British cast-plate-glass manufacturers*, for the purpose of carrying on and improving the manufactory by a joint stock of eighty shares of £500 each. [13 *Geo. III*, c. 38.] The company established their manufacture in Lancashire, and have prosecuted it with such diligence and success, that their plates rival, or even surpass, the most celebrated foreign manufactures in size and brilliancy.

As the act for constituting free ports in Jamaica was near expiring, Lieutenant-governor Dalling transmitted his observations upon the influence of it on the commercial interests of the island, to the following purport. The trade with the French was very trifling in the

articles permitted to be imported by the act. Some indigo was imported, and a few negroes and other goods were given in return: but a great and detrimental importation of other articles, and particularly of coffee in great quantities, accompanied the indigo, whereby the coffee-planters, a useful class of people, who cultivate the mountainous grounds incapable of being occupied as sugar plantations, and who, being all resident, add greatly to the strength of white people in the island, were reduced to great distress. The consequence of the free-port act upon the trade with the Spanish settlements was, that the Spanish government immediately took the alarm, and, suspecting that the commanders of the guarda-costas were corrupted by the traders, superseded them all, and appointed new ones\*. In addition to the hardships put upon the clandestine trade by the jealousy of the Spanish government, the strictness and severity of the custom-house officers in Jamaica in enforcing the official formalities (which, the lieutenant-governor thinks, ought to give way to the evident and great national advantage of encouraging the trade) so fettered that beneficial commerce, that it was almost annihilated at the very time when, and by the very means by which it was expected to be carried to a most flourishing state: whereas, by proper measures, the Spanish trade could be made to pour a continual stream of silver into Jamaica, to the great benefit of that island, and of the manufacturing interest of Great Britain.

The official formalities, to which the lieutenant-governor alludes, were attended with consequences infinitely worse than fettering to the Spaniards who engaged in the trade. By an unaccountable policy, the revenue officers in the free ports were instructed to keep regular accounts of all foreign vessels, the names of their commanders (who, apprehending no danger from that quarter, did not think of assuming fictitious names), and the quantity of bullion imported by them. The consequences of this measure were foreseen and foretold by sensible men in this country, and they verified the prediction as exactly as the changes of the moon, or the eclipses, can verify a calendar. The government of Spain, ever jealous of their hard-fettered commerce, and roused by the free-port act to double vigilance and vindictiveness, found means, by virtue of gold, to procure copies of the custom-house entries of the British free ports: and the unfortunate people, who were thus clearly convicted of the crime of carrying bullion to support the manufactures of Great Britain, were doomed by a relentless government to utter ruin†. When the British ministry were apprised of the dreadful

\* And it appears that these new officers were more vigilant than their predecessors, for several small vessels belonging to Jamaica were taken by them.

† For this fact I follow the authority of Mr. Edwards, who then had the direction of the custom-house in Jamaica, and received the intelligence

from a respectable Spanish merchant. [See his valuable *History of the West-Indies*, V. i, p. 233, ed. 1795.] But indeed, without any authority, one might venture to assert, that such consequences followed such measures as inevitably as night follows the setting of the sun.

consequences of the ill-advised instructions, they were immediately countermanded; but it was too late: it was not to be expected that any Spanish adventurer would afterwards run into the gulf, in which he saw so many of his brethren perish. And the British colonists were obliged, either to submit to the entire privation of the Spanish trade, or to become the adventurers themselves, as some of them actually did, though they run still greater risks of confiscation and slavery than the Spaniards.

To the lieutenant-governor's report may be added, that considerable quantities of St. Domingo cotton, (which, according to the evidence given to the house of commons, is the properest for the manufacture of Manchester velvets, wherein thirty thousand people were said to be employed), and of dying woods, as well as indigo, were brought to the free ports in foreign vessels. And it was also given in evidence, that the cotton and indigo so imported came to the British manufacturers thirty per cent cheaper than the same articles could be imported from France.

May 10<sup>th</sup>—In order to regulate the corn trade by a permanent law (instead of the late temporary suspensions of exportation) which might give sufficient encouragement to the farmer, and produce a regular supply of bread at moderate prices, it was enacted, that after the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1774, whenever the average prices of British grain in a district are above the following rates per quarter of eight Winchester bushels, viz.

wheat 48*s*; rye, peas, beans 32*s*; barley, beer, or bigg, 24*s*; oats 16*s*; they may be imported into that district on paying the following low duties, viz.

on wheat 6*d*; rye, peas, beans, 3*d*; barley, &c. and oats. 2*d*, per quarter; and wheat flour 2*d* per hundred weight: and the whole duty may be drawn back, if the same foreign corns are exported within six months.

And when, and where, British corns are at, or above, the following average prices, viz.

wheat 44*s*; rye, peas, beans, 28*s*; barley, beer, or bigg, 22*s*; oats 14*s*; the exportation of such corn, or of any bread, flour, starch, &c. made from them, is prohibited, under forfeiture of the corn, and 20*s* for every bushel, together with the vessel in which they are shipped.

But this act does not affect the carriage of corn by coasting navigation from one part of Britain to another. Limited quantities were also allowed to be carried to Gibraltar, Minorca, St. Helena, Guernsey, Jersey, Mann, and Africa; and unlimited quantities to Ireland, at any time when the exportation of corn from that kingdom is prohibited.

In order to prevent corn from falling much under the prices at which exportation is prohibited, to the prejudice of the farmer and landholder, the following bounties, to commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1774, were granted on the exportation of corn in British vessels, with at least two

thirds of the crews British subjects, when, and where, British corns are under those prices, viz.

on wheat, and malt made of wheat, 5s; rye 3s; barley, beer, or bigg, and malt made of them, 2/6; oats 2s, per quarter; and oat meal 2/6 per quarter of 276 pounds avoirdupois. [13 Geo. III, c. 43.]

By this law the legislature endeavoured to limit the fluctuation of prices nearly between 44s and 48s for wheat, and proportionally for other grains. The new regulations were somewhat more favourable than the preceding ones to the British consumers of every species of grain, except oats, the exportation of which is encouraged by it, whereas formerly there was no bounty for the exportation of oats, any more than of peas and beans.

Instead of the drawback of two fifths of the duty on teas exported, allowed by the former act, [12 Geo. III, c. 60.] the whole duty of custom was now allowed to be drawn back on all teas sold at the East-India company's sales after the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 1773, and exported as merchandize to the British colonies in America. The East-India company were also empowered to export teas direct from their warehouses on their own account, on obtaining a licence for the quantity from the lords of the treasury, to the British colonies in America, notwithstanding a former law obliging them to sell all their goods at home. But such exportation was only to be permitted, when the quantity of tea to be left in the company's warehouses should be at least ten millions of pounds. [13 Geo. III, c. 44.]

The bank of England gave notice, that after the 24<sup>th</sup> of June they would no longer discount bills at a lower rate of discount than *five* per cent.

May 28<sup>th</sup>—The manufacturers of silver plate in Birmingham and Sheffield labouring under great difficulties and hardships for want of a proper establishment of assayers to certify the quality of their goods, *guardians of the standard of wrought plate* were appointed for each town; and it was enacted, that after the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 1773 every piece of plate, of sufficient size to bear the touch, made in, or within twenty miles of, either of those towns, before being sold or exported should be marked with the initials of the maker's name, the year in which it is made, and the stamp of the guardians, which distinguishes the place where it is made, and ascertains that it is of the standard of eleven ounces two pennyweights of fine silver in the Troye pound. The marks are the figure of Britannia with an anchor for Birmingham, and a crown for Sheffield. [13 Geo III, c. 52.]

June 21<sup>st</sup>—It was enacted, that the paper, issued by the governments of the colonies in America, as security to their public creditors, should be received by the public treasurers as a lawful tender for the payment of duties, taxes, &c. [13 Geo. III, c. 57.]

A regulation was made for the prices of bread, containing a table of

prices of the bushel of wheat including baking, and of the corresponding prices of bread. [13 Geo. III, c. 62.]

Whether this is an useful measure of policy, or not, is a question, on both sides of which much has been said.

For several years bypast the affairs of the East-India company had appeared to be in a very prosperous condition, and they had thence been encouraged to raise their dividends to *twelve and a half per cent*; the highest they were by law empowered to make since the interference of government in their concerns, and indeed the highest that had been ever made since the union of the old and new companies. The vast amount of their commercial and territorial revenues gave them a pleasing prospect of the permanency of their prosperity, and flattered them, that, notwithstanding the heavy pressure of the annual sum paid to government, they would soon be enabled to reduce their debts within very moderate bounds. But these splendid prospects soon vanished: for it now appeared, that the prodigious increase of their revenue and authority in India had encouraged many of their servants there in innumerable acts of misconduct, profusion, and oppression. Since the year 1765 the company's annual expences had increased from £700,000 to £1,700,000. They paid almost £2,000,000 every year to government in custom-house duties\*, and the indemnity stipulated to be paid for the deficiency of the revenue on tea by the reduction of the duty†, together with the tribute, or composition, for the territorial revenue. By these means government had in the last five years reaped extraordinary emoluments from the company, beyond those of former years, to the amount of £3,195,000; while they themselves, though their mercantile profits had in these five years averaged £464,000 annually, had received altogether in their dividends scarcely £900,000 above six per cent upon their capital; whereas their trade alone, independent of their territorial revenue, was capable of affording a dividend of twelve and a half per cent. The great territorial revenue was reduced to a comparatively small sum by the payment of the rent to the Great mogul, the pensions to the nominal nabob of Bengal and his officers, the support of the civil establishment, of a military establishment of near 30,000 men, and, perhaps above all, by the profuse expences of collection. The pretious metals in Bengal, though formerly abundant, being the acquisition of industry, not the produce of native mines, could not hold out against such drains as the annual remittances to England, and the investments to China, which had of late been regularly furnished from that province, to say

\* On the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 1772 the company paid £205,468 : 0 : 8 in one payment at the custom-house for duties on goods imported under their bond.

† It was calculated, that the company had lost

by this indemnity not less than £1,000,000, of which the government received £700,000, and the consumers had the benefit of the remaining £300,000 in the reduced prices of tea.



nothing of the supply sent lately to Madras. The country, being thus exhausted of the circulating money, which used to invigorate the industry of the inhabitants, must soon be rendered incapable of either supporting the natives or yielding any revenue.

At this time the company were in arrears to government for £400,000, being one year's tribute, or participation, of the territorial revenue, and also for a large sum due on the tea indemnity, besides other large sums owing to the custom-house for duties unpaid. They were moreover deep in debt to the bank for money borrowed. And amidst all these difficulties they were under acceptances for bills drawn upon them from India to the amount of £1,200,000. Thus circumstanced, they found themselves not only disabled from paying the large annual tribute of £400,000, together with the indemnity, &c. but even from going on in their business, unless they could obtain a large loan from government.

The company ascribed the bad state of their affairs in India to their not having sufficient power to punish their servants for disobedience or malversations in that country, where the distance alone was too powerful a cause of many enormities being committed, not only with impunity, but even without ever coming to the knowledge of the company. In order to redress those evils the deputy-chairman of the company made a motion in the house of commons (30<sup>th</sup> March 1772) for a bill to regulate the company's servants in India, to prohibit the governor and council from having any concern in trade\*, and to alter the mode of administering justice in Bengal, where the mayor's court of Calcutta, originally instituted for the trial of mercantile causes, had extended its jurisdiction, along with the extension of the company's dominion, from a small territory to a great empire, to the magnitude of which it was by no means competent. The bill was read a first and second time, and then dropt: but parliament did not thereupon lose sight of the company's affairs.

The distress and depopulation of the provinces subject to the company in India, the oppression and despotism of their servants, and the mismanagement of the revenues of Bengal and the other provinces, whereby the company were now in more straitened circumstances than ever they were when they were merely merchants, were urged as motives for appointing a committee of the house of commons to make a strict inquiry into the state of the company's affairs at home and abroad: and their investigation gave birth to such arrangements as may be said to have thrown the company entirely into the hands of government.

On the 2<sup>d</sup> of March 1773 the company petitioned parliament for a

\* When by the acquisition of territory the governors at the different presidencies became the deputed sovereign rulers over several millions of people, the pursuits of a merchant or factor (for such the governors formerly were) came to be diametri-

cally opposite to the duty of a sovereign. The incompatibility of the characters of sovereign and merchant is well illustrated by Doctor Smith. [*Wealth of nations*, B. iv, c. 7.]



loan of £1,500,000 at four per cent interest for four years, with a liberty of repayment sooner, if they should be able, in sums of not less than £300,000. They proposed at the same time to restrict their dividends to *six per cent* till half the loan should be discharged, and thereafter to *eight per cent* till the final payment of the whole; and then to appropriate the surplus profits above eight per cent to the discharge of their bond debts, till they should be reduced to £1,500,000: and thereafter they offered to divide the surplus profits equally between the public and themselves: and they requested to be discharged from the heavy penalties incurred by the non-payment of the compensation, owing to government in consequence of the sum produced by the reduced duties on tea falling short of the amount of the former duties; and also to be discharged from the annual payment of £400,000 for the remainder of the five years, for which they were bound by the late act of parliament; and they requested permission to export teas free of all duty to America and to foreign countries\*. They moreover proposed, that the accounts of their territorial revenues, of their sales, and, in a word, a complete state of their affairs, should be annually laid before parliament.

After keen and interesting debates in both houses of parliament for about three months, and remonstrances and petitions from the India company, and from the corporation of London, whom the company had persuaded to interest themselves in the event, the following regulations were enacted.

June 21<sup>st</sup>—The annual election of twenty-four new directors having made the administration of the company's affairs too fluctuating and unstable, they are in future to remain four years in office, and six of them to go out every year; so that every year there shall be an election of six, instead of twenty-four, new directors. The election is to be made by proprietors of not less than £1,000 stock, who only have the privilege of voting in future †, which they must have held without collusion.

\* This part of the petition was speedily complied with by an act which received the royal assent on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, the substance of which the reader has already seen.

† The numbers of proprietors of East-India stock, holding £500 or more, appear by the company's book to have been as follows on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 1773.

|   |       |       |   |                    |                 |
|---|-------|-------|---|--------------------|-----------------|
| Proprietors of £1,000 stock or more,                  |       |       |   |                    |                 |
| English   | 487   | -     | - | holding £1,018,398 | 19 11           |
| Foreign   | 325   | -     | - | 890,940            | 17 0            |
|   |       | 812.  |   |                    | 1,909,339 16 11 |
| Proprietors of £500 or more, not amounting to £1,000, |       |       |   |                    |                 |
| English   | 1,246 | -     | - | 634,464            | 1 8             |
| Foreign   | 95    | -     | - | 50,226             | 0 0             |
|   |       | 1,341 |   |                    | 684,690 1 8     |

By the present act there were 1,246 proprietors of India stock disfranchized, and the whole government of the company's affairs thrown into the hands of 487 proprietors. This, to be sure, saves trouble to the candidates for the direction.

or fraud twelve months, or acquired by succession, the custom of London, or settlement. No person, who has been employed in any civil or military capacity in India, can be elected a director, till he has resided two years in England.

The civil and military government in India, and the management of the territorial acquisitions in Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa, were vested in a governor-general with a salary of £25,000 a year, and four counselors with salaries of £10,000 a year each, to reside at Fort-William in Bengal, to whom the presidencies of Madras, Bombay, and Bencoolen, are made subordinate\*.

A supreme court of judicature was also established at Fort-William, consisting of a chief justice with a salary of £8,000 a year, and three other judges with salaries of £6,000 each, all appointed by the crown. This court superseded the mayor's court at Calcutta.

The salaries of the governor-general, counselors, and judges, were directed to be paid by the company out of the territorial revenues; and neither they, nor any other civil or military servant of the crown or of the company in India are allowed upon any account to accept any presents, or to engage in any kind of trade: but counselors at law, physicians, surgeons, and chaplains, are allowed to receive their professional fees.

The interest of money in India is limited to twelve per cent. [13 *Geo. III*, c. 63.]

In consideration of the present state of the East-India company's affairs, parliament granted them a loan of £1,400,000. And as it would be impossible for them to repay this sum, if government should continue to receive £400,000 a-year out of their territorial revenues, there appeared a necessity of relinquishing that claim, till the company should be enabled by the application of the whole of the clear territorial revenues, and the whole of their profits upon trade, excepting a dividend limited not to exceed six per cent per annum, to repay the money advanced by government with the interest on it. After the repayment of that debt they were allowed to make dividends not exceeding seven per cent, till the clear revenues and profits, being applied to the discharge of their bond debts, should reduce them to £1,500,000.

The company were obliged to submit a statement of their profit and loss every half year to the lords of the treasury; they were restricted from accepting bills, drawn by their servants in India, for above £300,000 in a year, exclusive of certificates to the amount of £5,000 to the commander and officers of each of their ships, without the consent of the lords of the treasury; and they were bound to export to the British settlements within their limits goods of the growth, produce, and manu-

\* Before the year 1707 the company's settlement in Bengal was dependent on that at Madras. Afterwards the presidencies were all co-ordinate

and independent; but the want of harmony and concert produced great inconvenience and disorders.

facture, of Great Britain to the amount of £761,674 between 29<sup>th</sup> September 1773 and 29<sup>th</sup> September 1775, exclusive of military and naval stores, and of all exportation by the company's servants, or by private traders licenced by the company. [13 *Geo. III*, c. 64.]

Paper printed, painted, or stained, was permitted to be imported after the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 1773 on paying, in addition to the customs already imposed, a duty of one penny-halfpenny per square yard, which is the duty charged upon such paper manufactured at home. Paper of the manufacture of India imported by the East-India company is exempted from this duty. [13 *Geo. III*, c. 67.]

July 1<sup>st</sup>—The magistrates of London (for the city) and the justices of Middlesex were empowered to settle the wages of journeymen silk-weavers, after the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1773. [13 *Geo. III*, c. 68.]

‘Whereas the preventing the currency of clipped and unlawfully diminished and counterfeit money is a more effectual means to preserve the coin of this kingdom entire and pure, than the most rigorous laws for the punishment of such as diminish or counterfeit the same; and whereas, by the known laws of this kingdom, no person ought to pay, or knowingly tender in payment, any counterfeit or unlawfully diminished money, and all persons may not only refuse the same, but may, and by the antient statutes and ordinances of this kingdom have been required to destroy and deface the same,’ and the act [9, 10 *Will. III*.] which provided against the currency of clipped and counterfeit silver, having made no provision concerning gold money, all persons to whom gold money is tendered, and who suspect the same to be counterfeit or diminished beyond the usual effects of wearing, are empowered to break or cut such pieces, the loss falling on the person tendering, if the money is bad, but if found good, on the person cutting it\*. [13 *Geo. III*, c. 71.]

Cod, ling, and hake, caught in Chaleur bay, or on the coast of Labrador, were permitted to be imported into Great Britain in British vessels lawfully navigated, on the same terms as fish from Newfoundland into Ireland. [13 *Geo. III*, c. 72.]

The free ports opened in Dominica (by the act 6 *Geo. III*, c. 49) were continued free till the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1780, and those in Jamaica till the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1774. Cacao and coffee, the produce of Dominica, were allowed to be imported, either in or out of the hulk, after the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1773, on the same terms as the sugar and rum of that island; as was also any coffee in the hulk, the produce of any other of the colonies. The duty on negro slaves imported into Dominica, or ex-

\* In a few weeks after, the bank, at the request of the lords of the treasury, began to take in the cut and defaced gold money of this kingdom in quantities of not less than fifty guineas at £3 : 17 : 10½ per ounce.

ported from Jamaica, after the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1773 was reduced from £1:10:0 to 2/6 a head. [13 Geo. III, c. 73.]

A standard was prescribed by law for the uniform measurement of all ships or vessels, which were to pay duty, receive bounty, or be liable to penalties or seizure, in respect of their burthen. [13 Geo. III, c. 74.]

Parliament gave the sum of £2,000 to Doctor Williams as a reward for making public his invention of durable green and yellow colours for dying cotton\*. [13 Geo. III, c. 77.]

The several acts for the preservation of the highways were reduced into one; and the several acts for regulating the turnpike roads were also reduced into one. In these acts the surveyors of the roads are enjoined to set up and maintain mile-stones, legible direction-posts at every junction of the roads, graduated posts at places liable to inundation, and proper fences upon bridges and dangerous places. The weights of waggon, to be ascertained by weighing engines, are determined for the summer and the winter seasons; and all carts, waggon, and carriages let for hire, are ordered to be conspicuously marked with the owner's name and the number. [13 Geo. III, cc. 78, 84.]

Paper-makers, not employed by the bank, imitating the water-mark of the bank-note paper, were made liable to suffer death. And in order to prevent impositions upon the ignorant by notes made in imitation or resemblance of bank notes, no person is allowed to make any engraved bill or promissory note containing the words *Bank of England*, or *Bank post bill*, or expressing any sum in white letters on a black ground, under penalty of imprisonment for six months. [13 Geo. III, c. 79.]

Several acts for improving fen lands, for canals, roads, inclosures, and other improvements, were also passed.

August—The British merchants in Dantzick having purchased a quantity of timber to be shipped home for the service of the admiralty, the whole was seized by a company authorized by the king of Prussia, and conveyed to Elbing, at which, and some other of his ports on the Baltic, he was endeavouring to equip some ships of war, in order to become a maritime power.

Captain Phipps (now Lord Mulgrave) and Captain Lutwidge failed in two small ships of war in May, in order to make observations in the polar regions. When they reached the latitude of 81° 39', their farther progress was arrested by the ice, and they were in great danger of being lost. As soon as they got disengaged, they therefor made the best of their way home, and arrived in September. This voyage proves, if any further proof be required, that the space between the old and the new continent, though it is almost certain that it is not barred by any ob-

\* The art of fixing beautiful and durable colours is of more importance to the prosperity of our manufactures than can easily be conceived.

struction of land, will never afford a practicable communication with the Pacific ocean.

When it was proposed in a meeting of the East-India company, that they should avail themselves of the new law permitting them to export their teas, it was strenuously opposed by some of the members, who wished not to depart from the old established mode of conducting their sales, wherein the payment was sure, for a new mode of adventure, in which they must inevitably wait long for their payments, and besides run great risks of heavy losses. Though the large quantity of seventeen millions of pounds of tea, then upon hand \*, was held out as an argument for the exportation to America, it was answered, that that quantity was only reckoned equal to the consumption of two years, and consequently only the double of what they ought at all times to have on hand; and that by making two sales at home the first of them would in five months bring into their treasury the sum of £1,200,000; a sum sufficient to enable them to do without the loan they were then requesting from government, which was likely to be pregnant with such ruinous consequences to the company. Notwithstanding these and many other arguments, it was resolved by the majority, that the teas should be shipped, and several vessels were chartered to carry them to the different ports of America.

In America all things were already tending to widen the breach between the mother country and the colonies, when the news of the destination of several cargoes of tea, which was to pay a duty in America, blew up a flame, which was only extinguished by acknowledging the absolute independence of the colonies.

On this, as on similar occasions, the people of Boston took the lead. Committees, assembled without any authority from the powers established by law or by royal authority, assumed, or received from the people, power to counteract the designs of government by preventing the tea from being sold, or even landed, in America. On the arrival of three of the tea ships in the harbour, the captains, seeing the state of affairs, offered to return to London with their ill-fated cargoes, if the consignees, the custom-house officers, and the governor, would give them permission. The permission was refused from every quarter. The people of the town were sensible, that, if the ships continued in the harbour, means would be found to land the teas gradually and imperceptibly. A strong measure was therefor resolved upon. A great number of men, disguised like Mohawk Indians, boarded the ships in the night-time, and, without offering the smallest injury to the vessels or seamen,

\* For some years the Americans had taken off scarcely any of the company's teas, their enmity to Great Britain conspiring with the lower price to give a preference to the other nations of Europe. By the keen advocates for America this non-importation was assigned as the principal cause

of the company's distress: and their usual annual demand for tea only was said to have been to the amount of £600,000, besides great sums for piece goods, China ware, &c. It is probable that there is some exaggeration in the sum.



who could make no resistance, they completely discharged them of their cargoes, the whole of which they threw into the sea, and then went quietly on shore, without meeting with any opposition from Castle William or the ships of war in the harbour (December 18<sup>th</sup>). Such tea ships as arrived at Boston afterwards made no entry at all in the custom-house, but returned directly to England with their cargoes. At New York a parcel of tea was landed under the guns of a ship of war; but the governor was obliged to deliver it to be securely locked up from being sold, as had been the case with the stamp paper in the year 1765 in the same place. At Philadelphia the pilots were ordered to conduct no tea ship up the river. And at Charlestown the example of Boston was followed by discharging the tea into the water.

The spirit of emigration from the north of Ireland, noticed last year, still continued. The Highland part of Scotland was also infected with the same eagerness for change; and great numbers of people from Glengary, Ross, and Sutherland, and from the islands of Sky, Lewis, &c. broke through the strong attachment to the land of their fathers, which had for ages been the distinguishing characteristic of the Highlanders, and crossed the Atlantic to cultivate the waste lands; and augment the military force, of America, where such an accession of population, at such a critical time, was welcomed with joy and astonishment\*.

The emigration from the north of Ireland was owing, in some degree at least, to the great and alarming decrease of the demand for linens†. The reader has already seen the rapid increase of the linen manufacture of that country to the year 1771. From that period it declined, so that the exports of linen from Dublin, which in the year 1771 were to the value of £1,691,000 fell in the year 1772 to about £1,300,000, and this year below £900,000; little more than a half of what they were two years before.

In Scotland the linen manufacture was also declining. By the stamp-masters' reports, there were stamped for sale in the

|             |   |   |                   |
|-------------|---|---|-------------------|
| year 1771   | - | - | 13,466,274 yards, |
| 1772        | - | - | 13,089,006,       |
| and in 1773 | - | - | only 10,748,110.† |

\* Knox says it is certain, that between the years 1763 and 1775 above 30,000 people abandoned their habitations [in the Highlands] besides great numbers from the Lowlands. [*View of the British empire*, p. 130.] Admitting the number to be just, we may safely venture to say, that the emigrants from the Highlands only are now (1799) increased to 60,000 subjects of the United States of America.

† About three fourths, and in some places many more, of the looms in the north of Ireland were out of employment. From the port of Belfast 3,541 persons embarked for America between October 1771 and October 1773. About 6,000

shipped at Derry in the same time. And the whole emigration from the province of Ulster was estimated to amount to at least 30,000 people, whereof 10,000 were weavers, many of whom carried their weaving utensils to America. Almost all the emigrants carried some money with them, and some of them might be considered as men of property. [*Report of the committee of the Irish parliament on the linen manufacture, in the Irish Journal* 1774, pp. 360 et seq.]

‡ The earliest progress of this manufacture, which people are accustomed to call the staple of Scotland, may be seen in p. 336 of this volume.



The stagnation occasioned by this decline may have contributed to induce some of the people concerned in the manufacture to leave the country. It was given in evidence before the house of commons (in March 1774) by Messieurs Anderson and Goldy, that 600 out of 1,800 spinners had emigrated from one district in Sutherland, and proportional numbers from other places. From the evidence of these gentlemen it appeared, that some of the linens made in the year 1771 still remained then on hand; that the dullness of the demand had sunk the average price from  $12\frac{1}{4}$ <sup>d</sup>, which it was in 1769, to  $9\frac{5}{4}$ <sup>d</sup> in that year; that in four shires, which include Glasgow and Paisley, out of 6,000 looms 2,500 were unemployed, and in general a third part, or more, of the looms were unemployed throughout Scotland and the north of England.

Mr. Paine, the governor of the bank of England, was also examined in the house of commons upon the subject of the foreign linen trade. He stated the quantity of foreign linens imported in the

year 1772 at 27,000,000 yards,  
and in 1773 at 17,000,000.

He estimated the quantity of foreign linens exported to be from 7,000,000 to 10,000,000 of yards annually, and the annual consumption of them at home to be about 18,000,000 of yards.

The decline of the manufacture and importation of linens was the necessary consequence of the disproportionately large quantities made and imported in the year 1771, when a spirit of overtrading was too generally prevalent. The failures which ensued in 1772, and the glut of linens on hand of the fabric and import of 1771, together with the loaded state of the foreign markets from the too great exports of 1770, 1771, and 1772, effectually abridged the powers of the manufacturers, and the demands, as well as the abilities, of the exporters\*.

For several years past the officers appointed by the committee of British merchants trading to Africa, and those of the Dutch West-India company settled on that continent, had been engaged in disputes upon matters of commerce and possession. The Dutch governor of St. George d'el mina claimed an exclusive right to trade with the Portuguese vessels, which brought Brazil tobacco to the coast; which was denied by the British officers, who insisted that the Portuguese should be at liberty to deal with whom they pleased, and asserted, that it would be impossible without that article to trade with the Negroes. The Dutch also claimed the property of the soil whereon a British fort was erected at Appollonia, contrary to the stipulation of a convention in the year 1708, wherein the River Ancobre is fixed as the utmost boundary of country with which the Dutch have any connection. There were also other disputes about the liberty of some roads, and the property of some villages.

\* See the progress of the linen trade from the year 1743 till the year 1771 in p. 515.

December—In consequence of the representations of the British ambassador at the Hague upon these contests, the States-general sent over two of the directors of their West-India company as commissaries to London, who, however, though assisted by their ambassador here, concluded nothing.

The account of the French cod fishery this year was as follows\*:

|                                | Vessels. | Tuns.  | Men.  | Fishing boats. | Quintals of dried cod. | Pickled cod, Number, Barrels. | Barrels of oil. | Value in livres, tournois. |
|--------------------------------|----------|--------|-------|----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| On the coast of Newfoundland } | 104      | 15,621 | 7,263 | 1,367          | 190,060                |                               | 2,825           | 3,816,580                  |
| At St. Pierre and Miquelon }   | 35       | 2,543  | 456   | 20             | 36,670                 |                               | 253             | 805,490                    |
| On the banks of Newfoundland } | 125      | 9,275  | 1,684 |                |                        | 2,041,000                     | 641             | 1,421,615                  |
| Totals - -                     | 264      | 27,439 | 9,403 | 1,387          | 226,730                | 2,041,000                     | 641             | 3,200,685                  |

The number of bankruptcies, which, as has been already remarked, last year exceeded the number in any preceding one, was still increased, and no fewer than 562 names of bankrupts appeared in the gazettes of this year.

In this year 20,000 hogheads of sugar were imported into Bristol from the West-Indies, being more by 5,000 than had ever before been brought into that port in one year.

It was about this time that the public botanic garden of Jamaica was established by the legislature of that island, who were unwilling to be outdone by the small island of St. Vincents, where the liberality and public spirit of General Melville, the governor-general of the Ceded islands, had established an excellent public garden in the year 1768, as has been related in its place.

In the year 1771 Colonel Lawrie, superintendant of the Musquito shore, in conjunction with some others, bought from the Indian chiefs a tract of land, which, they supposed, contained a gold mine. In the later end of that year he applied to administration for protection in working the mine, and was assured, that the more valuable it turned out, the stronger protection should be afforded to him. Thus encouraged, he returned in the later end of the year 1773 with a number of miners, and purchased slaves to work the mine. But, owing, as is alleged, to the misconduct of the miners, the adventurers met with very little success. And in the year 1779 the war with Spain fortunately

\* This account is taken from Raynal, [*Hist. phil. et. polit. V. x, tab. 1*] who may be presumed to be well informed upon the French fisheries. It differs, however, from the general account given

by the British admiral on the station, which will also be found, along with that of some other years, under the year 1774.

delivered Great Britain from the fatal consequence of possessing a colony with a gold mine. ✓

There belonged this year to all the ports of

England 7,568 vessels of the reputed burthen of 581,801 tuns,  
and of Scotland 1,578 - - - - - 91,721

Total - 9,146 - - - - - 673,522

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain from and to foreign countries, including repeated voyages,

|           | British. |         | Foreign. |         | Total.   |         |
|-----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
|           | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.   |
| Inward -  | 8,259    | 796,033 | 1,198    | 114,789 | 9,457    | 910,822 |
| Outward - | 9,396    | 874,042 | 491      | 57,945  | 9,887    | 931,987 |

The net amount of the customs, including the West-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the course of this year, was, from the custom-house in London - - - £2,439,017 : 1 : 6 The custom duties of Scotland being entirely exhausted in fishery bounties, drawbacks, &c. there was no money remitted this year from the custom-house in Edinburgh.

There were coined at the mint in the course of this year 28,200 pounds of gold, value - - - £1,317,645 : 0 : 0 and no silver.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Christmas 1772 to Christmas 1773 was as follows.

| Countries, &c.   | Imported into  |              |  | Exported from   |             |  |
|------------------|----------------|--------------|--|-----------------|-------------|--|
|                  | ENGLAND.       | SCOTLAND.    |  | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.   |  |
| Africa - -       | £68,424 19 9   |              |  | £662,112 7 11   |             |  |
| Canaries - -     | 10,635 11 9    |              |  | 43,889 10 1     | £132 1 3    |  |
| Denmark, &c. - - | 71,044 4 0     | £20,129 16 5 |  | 161,399 4 10    | 22,968 1 9  |  |
| East country - - | 164,337 12 2   |              |  | 68,571 19 8     |             |  |
| East-India - -   | 1,933,096 18 5 |              |  | 845,707 16 0    |             |  |
| Flanders - -     | 79,957 1 4     |              |  | 1,006,601 6 7   |             |  |
| France - -       | 44,484 1 3     | 2,411 15 6   |  | 285,776 4 0     | 511,688 8 3 |  |
| Germany - -      | 454,186 9 5    | 29,911 17 0  |  | 1,337,552 1 10  | 53,407 18 1 |  |
| Greenland - -    | 17,644 14 10   | 2,545 18 2   |  | 28 10 4         |             |  |
| Holland - -      | 411,642 6 0    | 105,973 16 3 |  | 1,873,860 14 5  | 372,535 6 3 |  |
| Ireland - -      | 1,252,817 3 7  | 125,848 18 1 |  | 1,918,802 18 10 | 308,840 5 8 |  |
| Mann - -         | 4,563 4 8      | 420 11 0     |  | 18,336 4 4      | 135 19 2    |  |
| Italy - -        | 480,349 6 0    | 2,953 14 6   |  | 848,729 0 1     | 3,283 7 0   |  |
| Madeira - -      | 2,499 0 8      |              |  | 13,118 14 7     | 201 2 7     |  |
| Poland - -       |                | 5,332 7 1    |  |                 | 335 15 5    |  |
| Prussia - -      |                | 16,674 18 4  |  |                 | 1,377 10 10 |  |
| Portugal - -     | 349,214 13 4   | 12,817 3 0   |  | 522,379 10 1    | 404 1 4     |  |
| Russia - -       | 850,112 18 5   | 99,682 7 9   |  | 196,229 1 3     | 12,273 15 6 |  |
| Spain - -        | 462,342 12 6   | 7,603 16 7   |  | 830,072 7 6     | 10,910 1 6  |  |

| Countries, &c.            | Imported into  |               | Exported from   |                 |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                           | ENGLAND.       | SCOTLAND.     | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.       |
| Straits - - -             | £714 9 0       |               | £63,098 6 9     |                 |
| Gibraltar - - -           |                |               |                 | £1,293 1 4      |
| Sweden - - -              | 161,603 16 1   | £22,920 0 5   | 36,308 0 0      | 2,378 16 10     |
| Turkey - - -              | 163,538 17 9   |               | 118,475 6 0     |                 |
| Venice - - -              | 104,003 10 7   |               | 98,371 4 6      |                 |
| Guernsey, &c. -           | 55,795 15 10   | 989 13 8      | 61,779 17 4     | 48 15 0         |
| America in general -      |                | 525,028 17 1  |                 | 240,591 10 4    |
| Hudson's bay - -          | 8,943 4 2      |               | 6,467 9 9       |                 |
| Newfoundland - -          | 68,087 11 9    |               | 77,744 1 4      |                 |
| Cape Breton - -           | 0 16 6         |               | 984 6 4         |                 |
| Quebec - - -              | 42,394 11 2    |               | 316,867 19 6    |                 |
| Nova-Scotia - - -         | 1,719 9 3      |               | 27,032 18 4     |                 |
| New-England - - -         | 124,624 19 6   |               | 527,055 15 10   |                 |
| New-York - - -            | 76,246 12 0    |               | 289,214 19 7    |                 |
| Pennsylvania - - -        | 36,652 8 9     |               | 426,448 17 3    |                 |
| Virginia and Maryland     | 589,803 14 5   |               | 328,904 15 8    |                 |
| Carolina - - -            | 456,513 8 4    |               | 344,859 9 1     |                 |
| Georgia - - -             | 85,391 1 8     |               | 62,932 19 8     |                 |
| Florida - - -             | 7,129 13 6     |               | 51,502 7 2      |                 |
| West-Indies in general    |                | 118,147 5 5   |                 | 67,999 17 2     |
| Antigua - - -             | 112,779 0 10   |               | 93,323 1 3      |                 |
| Barbados - - -            | 168,682 6 1    |               | 148,817 9 3     |                 |
| Bermuda - - -             | 509 10 0       |               | 10,051 18 9     |                 |
| Dominica - - -            | 248,868 16 5   |               | 43,679 12 7     |                 |
| Grenada - - -             | 445,041 0 9    |               | 102,761 1 6     |                 |
| Jamaica - - -             | 1,286,888 16 6 |               | 683,451 8 10    |                 |
| Montserrat - - -          | 47,911 12 8    |               | 14,974 6 1      |                 |
| Nevis - - -               | 39,299 7 6     |               | 9,181 14 8      |                 |
| St. Christophers - -      | 150,512 5 5    |               | 62,607 19 10    |                 |
| St. Vincents - - -        | 145,619 0 2    |               | 38,444 4 5      |                 |
| Tobago - - -              | 20,453 19 2    |               | 30,049 2 0      |                 |
| Tortola - - -             | 48,000 5 2     |               | 26,927 3 3      |                 |
| New-Providence - -        | 3,379 11 4     |               | 2,132 16 4      |                 |
| St. Croix - - -           | 6,706 8 5      |               | 1,248 3 6       |                 |
| St. Thomas - - -          |                |               | 271 14 3        |                 |
| St. Eustathius - -        | 5,730 19 4     |               |                 |                 |
| Foreign West-Indies -     | 35,941 5 7     | 16,409 7 1    | 15,114 18 11    | 1,371 4 7       |
| Imp. and exp. of England  | 11,406,841 3 8 |               | 14,763,253 2 4  |                 |
| Imp. and exp. of Scotland | 1,115,802 3 4  | 1,115,802 3 4 | 1,612,177 15 10 | 1,612,177 15 10 |
| Total, Great Britain -    | 12,522,643 7 0 |               | 16,375,430 18 2 |                 |

1774.—The Virgin islands, though a part of the general government of the Leeward islands (so called in respect of their situation in relation to Barbados) were hitherto without any regularly constituted internal government, the lieutenant-governor and council acting in a legislative and judicial capacity without any assembly or jury. In consequence of an application of the inhabitants, through the governor-general, to the king, accompanied with an offer of paying the duty of four and a half per cent on all their exported produce (as the other islands of the government do) they were now indulged with a house of representatives elected by themselves, who held their first meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February 1774. In consequence of the establishment of a more regular

government, the merchants of Great Britain have been encouraged to give more liberal credits to those islands, which have rendered them more flourishing.

In the year 1769 the question concerning the duration of literary property, or the exclusive privilege which an author has in the sale of his own works by himself or his assignees, was first agitated in a court of law. And on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 1770 the lords commissioners of the great seal decreed in chancery, that the right vested in the author, or by him assigned to another, should be perpetual; and they ordered Mr. Taylor, a bookseller in Berwick, to account to Mr. Millar, a bookseller in London, as proprietor of Thomson's Seasons, for the proceeds of an edition of that work published by him.

This decree was thought decisive; and the booksellers of London were thereby encouraged to lay out great sums \* in copy-right, as it seemed a species of property so well secured by the laws. But the matter was not yet concluded. The question was carried before the house of lords, by whom, after hearing many learned and keen arguments on both sides, the former decree was reversed. Literary property, therefore, stands now, as formerly, upon the statute of the eight of Queen Anne, c. 19, which vests in the author, or his assignee, an exclusive property for *fourteen years*, after the expiration of which the author, if in life, is entitled to a *second term of fourteen years*, at the end of which the copy-right expires, and the right of publication is open to every body.

The booksellers of London endeavoured to get this decision of the lords set aside by a new act of parliament, but failed in their attempt.

As connected with this subject, it may be proper to anticipate, that in the following year the universities of England and Scotland, and the colleges of Eton, Westminster, and Winchester, were empowered by act of parliament to hold *in perpetuity* the exclusive copy-right of all books bequeathed or given to them by the authors, unless expressly given for a limited time; such books, however, being printed only at their own presses, and for their own sole benefit and advantage, and also entered in Stationer's hall according to law.—[15 Geo. III, c. 53, passed 23<sup>d</sup> May 1775.]

I will also here observe, that, after a long contest, it was decided in the court of King's bench, (12<sup>th</sup> June 1777) that music was to be considered as literary property, and consequently protected by the statute of Queen Anne.

The house of commons having gone into a committee of inquiry into the state of the linen manufacture, † which (as related under the preceding year) was now very much declined, petitions were presented from

\* Lord Lyttleton in the house of lords stated the amount of them to be about £600,000.

† Some of the facts respecting the linen trade,

which appeared in evidence before this committee, have already been detailed under the year 1773, to which in point of time they belong.



Norwich \*, Birmingham, Sheffield, Wolverhampton, Walsall, and Wednesbury, against laying any additional duties on foreign linens, the consequence of which, the petitioners observed, must be similar impositions upon British manufactures in other countries, whereby the trade and manufactures of the petitioners, and the general commerce of Great Britain, would be materially injured. Counter petitions, praying for additional duties, were presented from the linen manufacturers in the north of England and Glasgow. I do not find, that the house of commons came to any conclusion upon the linen business.

March—For the support of the sugar colonies in the West-Indies, the merchants were allowed to export wheat, meal, flour, bread, biscuit, and starch made of wheat, not exceeding in the whole 2,000 quarters in a year from the port of London, and other grains, peas, beans, malt, and oat-meal, from other ports of Great Britain, on giving bond for due landing at the destined ports, unless at times when corn may be exported with a bounty. The inhabitants of Guernsey, Jersey, and Alderney, were also allowed to ship wheat, meal, biscuit, &c. for the fishery at Newfoundland or other British colonies in America, where the fishery is carried on. [14 Geo. III, c. 5.]

The act for confining the importation of gum-senega to Great Britain, and for laying a duty of 30s per hundredweight on the exportation of it, being found to operate as a premium to smugglers, who carried it to Holland either direct from Senegal, or clandestinely from Britain, the duty on exportation was reduced from 30s to 5s, to take place after the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 1774. [14 Geo. III, c. 10.]

The ports concerned in the Newfoundland fishery were permitted to export limited quantities of biscuit and peas for the use of their fisheries, though the general exportation of grain should be prohibited, on giving proper bonds. [14 Geo. III, c. 11.]

In consequence of the outrage committed upon the tea ships in the harbour of Boston, an act was passed, whereby all business of landing and shipping goods in the harbour of Boston was suspended after the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1774, with an indulgence of fourteen days for vessels then in the harbour, excepting only military stores for the king's service, and fuel and victuals for the use of the inhabitants of Boston from other parts of America: and all charter-parties, bills of lading, and contracts for shipping goods for Boston were declared null and void. [14 Geo. III, c. 9.]

When the banking company, under the firm of Douglas, Heron, and Company of Ayr, resolved to discontinue their business, they found it

\* Norwich is the chief seat and center of the light woollen manufacture. Did the people of Norwich consider themselves as not having a common cause with the other manufacturers of woollen goods, for whose sake the linen manufacture has been bolstered up with bounties, and fenced with high duties upon foreign linens?



would be impossible to call in their funds immediately without spreading great and general distress throughout the country; and therefore they had recourse to other methods of raising money to discharge the demands upon them, as has been related under the year 1772. Being desirous of putting the annuities they had then sold in a proper train of redemption, agreeable to the contract with the annuitants, they called a meeting of them on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 1774, and made proposals to cancel the annuity bonds, and substitute for them bonds of fifty pounds each to the amount of the sums formerly stipulated, to be secured upon sufficient unentailed estates in Scotland, and to be paid in London by four installments, (the last of which was payable at Midsummer 1782) with interest at five per cent, and the bonds to be transferable in the manner of India bonds, exchequer bonds, &c. The annuitants having accepted the proposals, proper gentlemen were appointed to conduct the business; and the transaction was sanctioned by parliament. [14 Geo. III, c. 21.]

In the course of the month of March there arrived at Cadiz a flota from the Spanish West-Indies with a cargo of silver together with some valuable merchandize, to the amount of 26,319,436 crowns, of which above 22,000,000 was silver. It has been already observed, that the Spanish importations of treasure are for the benefit of the industrious manufacturing nations.

May—An act was passed to prevent embezzlements in the important manufacture of woollen cloth. [14 Geo. III, c. 25.]

The Hudson's-bay company were allowed to export a limited quantity of grain for the subsistence of the people at their factories, whatever the prices might happen to be. [14 Geo. III, c. 26.]

The bank of Scotland, which was established in the year 1695 with a capital stock of only £100,000 sterling (or £1,200,000 Scottish\*) having proved very useful to the country, and having stood unshaken during the late convulsions of credit, the proprietors applied to parliament for liberty to double their stock, which was granted. The old proprietors were entitled to a preference during six months in subscribing for the new stock, so as to double what they previously held; and all the qualifications for voting and bearing offices were now doubled. [14 Geo. III, c. 32.]

The East-India company being obliged by law to sell their teas within *three years* from the time of their importation, and the quantity remaining in their warehouses on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 1774 being too great to be consumed within the limited time, they were allowed *five years* for the disposal of their Singlo, and *four years* for their Bohea, teas, to

\* For some time after the union of the kingdoms accounts continued to be kept in Scotland in Scottish money. But before the middle of the eighteenth century it was generally disused, ex-

cept in reckoning servants' wages, which, I believe, are still paid in old Scottish money in some parts of the country.

be computed from the time of their importation. The company were by the same act obliged to keep a constant supply of teas at reasonable prices to answer the consumption of Great Britain, on neglect of which the lords of the treasury may empower others to import teas from any part of Europe. [14 Geo. III, c. 34.]

The term assigned for keeping open the free ports in Jamaica\* was lengthened till the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1780, and thence, as usual, to the end of the next session of parliament. [14 Geo. III, c. 41.]

It being suspected, that a great quantity of silver coin, deficient in fineness or in weight, and purporting to be the coin of this kingdom, was imported from abroad, it was enacted, that after the 1<sup>st</sup> of June no such coin should be imported; and any sum exceeding five pounds found in any vessel arriving in Great Britain, if found deficient in quality or weight, was ordered to be seized and melted down. It was also enacted, that no person should be obliged to receive above twenty-five pounds in silver money by tale, but only by weight at the rate of  $\frac{5}{2}$  the ounce. [14 Geo. III, c. 42.]

An act was passed for altering the constitution of the province of Massachusetts bay, by abolishing the democratical part of it, and reducing it more to a resemblance of the other colonies. [14 Geo. III, c. 45.]

To repress the spirit of gambling in insurances upon lives and events wherein the parties have no real or pecuniary interest, all policies for such insurances were declared unlawful: and the holders of insurances upon lives were entitled only to recover the value of the interest they really have in the lives insured. [14 Geo. III, c. 48.]

The commerce of Hull (or Kingston upon Hull) being greatly increased, it became necessary to establish new quays, or wharfs, where goods may be legally shipped and landed. It was also proposed to dig out a capacious basin in the main land for the reception of the shipping; and the corporation of Hull, the brotherhood of shipmasters, and several other gentlemen, were formed into a company for carrying on this new harbour†. To assist a work of such utility, the king gave a piece of crown land, and parliament granted fifteen thousand pounds, to be paid at certain periods in the progress of the work out of the customs collected at Hull. [14 Geo. III, c. 56.]

All the existing laws for the encouragement of discovering the longitude at sea were repealed, and one new act passed, which empowered

\* For some account of the trade hitherto carried on at the free ports, see above, p. 536.

† This magnificent dock, hitherto one of the largest in Britain, was completed, and opened for the admission of ships on the 22<sup>d</sup> of September 1778. It is of an oval figure, enclosed by a wall, or quay, all-around it, except the entrance, over which there is a draw-bridge. Such a harbour

being exempted from the fury of storms, and only needing to have the deposited mud cleaned out at times, will be kept in repair at little expense, if compared with the long piers projecting into stormy seas, which have been so often destroyed and rebuilt. It is worthy of remark, that docks, somewhat similar, were used by the Carthaginians.

the commissioners of the longitude still to give rewards, not exceeding £10,000, for any improvement in that great nautical desideratum, either by time-keepers, or by solar and lunar tables, which shall be found by satisfactory trials to be more perfect than those already in the possession of the public. They were also directed to give proportional rewards for any other improvements in naval affairs. [14 Geo. III, c. 66.]

June—The permission of carrying rice from South Carolina, Georgia, and the Floridas, to the southern parts of Europe and the West-India islands was prolonged till the year 1781. [14 Geo. III, c. 67.]

The most defective of the gold coins were already driven out of the circulation by the successive regulations for increasing the smallest legal weight at which they should be allowed to be current, and that weight was now fixed at five pennyweights eight grains for guineas, the same standard which has been kept up ever since. On this occasion parliament determined, that all further loss arising from this last abridgement of the allowance for wear should be born by the public, and for that purpose voted a sum not exceeding £2,500,000 to make good the deficiency and recoinage of the light gold; which the officers of the revenue were now directed to take in payment and convey it to the bank. [14 Geo. III, c. 70.]

The exportation of tools and utensils used in the manufactures of cotton, linen, wool, and silk, was prohibited under the penalty of £200 to be paid by the shipper, and £200 by the commander of the vessel receiving them onboard. [14 Geo. III, c. 71.]

Whereas a new manufacture of stuffs, made entirely of cotton spun in this kingdom, had lately been introduced, and some doubts were ascertained; whether it was lawful to use it, it was declared by parliament, to be not only a lawful, but a laudable, manufacture, and therefor permitted to be used, on paying three pence per square yard when printed, painted, or stained with colours. [14 Geo. III, c. 72.]

All the laws hitherto made for guarding the excise duties payable by distillers, being found insufficient, a new act was passed containing stricter regulations. In the same act a remedy was provided against fraudulent demands for the drawback of one third of the duty on soap, allowed to manufacturers of woollen goods and bleachers of linen (who used to represent the soap used by them as foreign) by limiting it, after the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 1774, to one third of the duty on home-made soap. [14 Geo. III, c. 73.]

The duty on great raisins, being found disproportionately high, was reduced to the same rate that is paid upon other raisins imported. [14 Geo. III, c. 74.]

Parliament determined to pay off a million of the various three-per-cent annuities; of which a million and a half was paid off in the year

1772; and in the same manner, except that only £88 was now offered in discharge of £100 of the capital, for which reduction of the price the stockholders were offered *six* lottery tickets for every £100 of stock at the price of £12:10:0\*. [14 Geo. III, c. 76.]

An act was passed for the discharge of insolvent debtors upon faithfully giving up their effects to be equally divided among their creditors, without prejudice of mortgages and other such preferable securities. By this act it was declared, that freehold and copyhold estates, and money invested in the funds or lent upon real security, shall remain liable to the claims of the creditors of such discharged insolvent debtors; but that their persons, and their personal property acquired after their discharge, shall be exempted. [14 Geo. III, c. 77.]

All the laws hitherto made for the regulation of buildings in London and its vicinage being found insufficient, a very ample set of regulations was enacted, whereby all future buildings of whatever nature were to be distributed into seven classes; and giving very minute directions for the thickness, materials, &c. of every part of every wall in every class of buildings within the bills of mortality. By this act the magistrates are directed to appoint surveyors, who are to see that all buildings are executed according to law. The act also directs that ruinous houses shall be pulled down; that fire-cocks shall be placed in the water-pipes with conspicuous notices of their situations; that fire engines, and also proper ladders to assist people in escaping from fire, shall be kept in every parish: and it prescribes rewards to be paid to the engine-keepers and turncocks, who shall be first, second, and third, in affording assistance when needed †. [14 Geo. III, c. 78.]

The lenders of money on the security of estates in Ireland and the colonies were now entitled to receive such rate of interest, as is legal in the countries where the estates are situated, though the mortgages are executed in Britain, provided they be duly registered in Ireland or the colony wherein the property lies. [14 Geo. III, c. 79.]

The province of Québec was enlarged to its ancient boundaries, comprehending the vast inland tract, which was exempted from the governor's authority in the year 1763, and also the country on the north

\* See the act 12 Geo. III, c. 70.

† Quere, if an act for converting all terminable leases into perpetual leases, for a fair equivalent, would not be more effectual in introducing a voluntary custom (for even in such matters custom prevails) of erecting safe and substantial buildings, than all the compulsive laws that can ever be contrived? The materials are to be had in abundance with as easy a freight as we pay for coals, an article of daily consumption; and surely no man would grudge a price for materials to erect a house for the accommodation of himself and his posterity during several centuries. Observe how frequent and destructive fires are in London; how seldom

they happen, and how little damage they do in other towns, as crowded as London, where the houses are built upon freeholds or perpetual leases. I remember being told by a considerable proprietor of such houses, that he never made any insurance upon his property; and on my expressing my surprise that he should run so great a risk, he made it apparent, that it would not be easy, for even a wilful incendiary, to damage any of his houses to the amount of £100.

In June 1775 twelve people were buried in the ruins of some houses building in Chiswell street, which were too slight to stand till the tradesmen were done with them.

side of the Gulf of St. Laurence, which had then been detached from it, and annexed to the government of Newfoundland, that the administration of civil government might extend to the numerous native-French settlers in the former, and that the fishers in the later might no longer be subjected to the Newfoundland regulations, which they represented as inconsistent with the nature of their fishery. The Roman-catholic subjects, said to be in number about 65,000, were indulged with the free exercise of their religion, subject to the king's supremacy; their clergy were authorized to receive their accustomed emoluments from their flocks; and the antient French laws and customs were restored, except in criminal cases. Several duties were also laid by parliament upon liquors and melasses, imported into the province, for the support of the civil government of it. [14 *Geo. III*, cc. 83, 88.]

The privilege of naturalization having been abused by many foreigners, who obtained it merely for the sake of enjoying commercial advantages in foreign countries, which by treaties belong only to British subjects, it was provided by law, that henceforth no foreigner should be entitled to such advantages, unless he has resided in Britain seven years after his naturalization. [14 *Geo. III*, c. 84.]

Among the usual articles of expenditure voted by parliament this year, there is the sum of £2,500 to David Hartley Esq. to assist him in his experiments upon an invention for securing buildings and ships from fire. [14 *Geo. III*, c. 85.]

An act was passed for prolonging a considerable number of commercial laws relative to importation and exportation. [14 *Geo. III*, c. 86.]

The mayor and corporation of the city of London, whose supremacy and conservancy of the River Thames is recognized to extend from the city stone above Staines bridge to a place called Kendall, Yenland, or Yenleet, in Kent, were empowered to improve the important inland navigation of the river above London bridge. [14 *Geo. III*, c. 91.]

A number of acts, as usual, were also passed for the improvement of several parts of London and other towns, for canals, drainings, and other improvements.

Some merchants of Stockholm having entered into a company for carrying on the whale fishery, the king of Sweden, in order to promote an undertaking so useful to his dominions, assisted them with an advance of 500,000 dollars at an interest of three per cent.

The East-India company received advice, that the Spanish governor of Manila had sent a message to Mr. Harbord to desire him to depart from the new settlement at Balambangan, and threatening, if he did not immediately comply, that he would send a sufficient force to dislodge him, and destroy his works. Balambangan is a small island at the north end of the great island of Borneo, which the company ac-



quired from the king of Sooloo (or Solor) in the year 1762, with a view of establishing on it a very capital entrepot for exchanging the produce and manufactures of Hindoostan and Europe for those of China, Japan, and the Oriental islands. This settlement gave great offence to the Dutch and the Spaniards, and it was probably owing to their instigations, that the island was some time after attacked by the people of Sooloo, and plundered of property to the amount of near a million of dollars. The East-India company's officers and people thereupon retired with what effects they could save to Laboan.

The herring fishery was so very abundant on the coast of Fife this season, that the fishermen sold their herrings at the rate of a hundred for three pence, and 4,000 for 3/6.

On Monday the fifth day of September a *congress of delegates* from twelve \* British colonies in America was held at Philadelphia. This meeting of a general representative and legislative † body, elected without any authority derived from the British government, may with great propriety be called the commencement of the independent sovereignty of the American states, though the members of the congress still professed themselves his Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects, in a strong petition to the king, and in an address to the people of Great Britain, 'their friends and fellow-subjects.'

(September 22<sup>d</sup>)—One of their first acts was a request to the merchants and traders, that they would send no orders to Great Britain for goods, and suspend the execution of all orders already sent, till the further sense of the congress should be made public.

October 20<sup>th</sup>—Soon after they published an ample and formal association, wherein they resolved—that after the 1<sup>st</sup> of December they would import no goods whatever from Great Britain or Ireland, nor any goods carried from Great Britain or Ireland to any other place, nor any East-India tea from any part of the world, nor any melasses, syrups, paneles, coffee, or pimento, from the British West-India islands, nor any foreign indigo. —that they would not after that day import, or purchase, any slaves, but wholly desist from the slave trade, and have no trading intercourse with any one concerned in it. —As the most effectual security for the observance of the non-importation, they resolved to use no tea on which duty had been paid, and after the first of March no tea whatever, and to purchase no goods imported contrary to the association. —In consideration of the interest of their fellow-subjects in Great Britain, they suspended the non-exportation till the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 1775, after which day, if the obnoxious acts were not repealed, no merchandize whatever was to be exported to Great Britain, Ireland, or the West-

\* Georgia did not accede at the commencement of the revolution.

† Their advices, or recommendations, *though not formally called laws*, were followed with an eager-

ness or zeal of obedience, beyond what was ever paid to any laws enacted by the legally-constituted authorities.



Indies, except rice to Europe.—They also resolved to increase the breed of sheep, and encourage the manufactures of the country, especially those of wool, to promote industry and economy, and to discourage gaming, public amusements of every kind, and every species of extravagance, particularly, mourning clothes, gloves, and scarfs, at funerals.—They resolved to hold up to public odium any one who should take advantage of the scarcity of goods to demand extravagant prices, or in any respect infringe this resolution; and that the manufactures of America should also be sold at reasonable prices.—In case of any cargoes arriving between the 1<sup>st</sup> of December and the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 1775, they directed, that, at the option of the importers, they should either be sent back, stored by the committee of the town or county at the risk of the importer till the termination of the non-importation agreement, or sold under the direction of the committee, who in that case, should pay the prime cost and charges to the importer, and bestow the profit, if any, for the relief of the sufferers by the Boston port bill: but after the 1<sup>st</sup> of February no goods were to be received on any account.—And they resolved to have no intercourse with any province of America, that should refuse to accede to, or should violate, this association.

The congress made the following estimate of the population of the associated provinces at this time.

|                       |           |                |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| Massachusetts bay     | 400,000   | Maryland       | 320,000   |
| New Hampshire         | 150,000   | Virginia       | 650,000   |
| Rhode island          | 59,678    | North Carolina | 300,000   |
| Connecticut           | 192,000   | South Carolina | 225,000   |
| New York              | 250,000   |                |           |
| New Jersey            | 130,000   |                | 1,495,000 |
| Pennsylvania with the |           |                | 1,531,678 |
| lower counties on De- | } 350,000 |                |           |
| laware                |           | Total *        | 3,026,678 |

A commercial intercourse was soon after opened by the British-American colonies with France and Holland, which, in consequence of representations from the court of Great Britain, was prohibited by authority, and connived at, in both countries.

Mr. Chalmers in his *Estimate of the strength of Great Britain* [p. 260, ed. 1794] reckons the shipping belonging to the American colonies, now forming the United States, which were entered in British ports, to have been 34,587 tons on an average of the years 1771-2-3-4.

The king in council had issued letters patent on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 1764,

\* It was afterwards acknowledged, that this calculation was considerably exaggerated. Governor Pownall [*Memorial*, p. 122] estimates the whole number of the colonists this year at only 2,141,307: and the census taken in the year 1782, including

the people of Georgia, amounts only to 2,389,300, of whom only about 1,700,000 were white people. It is not probable that the number of people in the American States was less at the conclusion, than before the beginning, of the war.

directing that the duty of four and a half per cent, which had been granted under particular circumstances by the assembly of Barbados \*, and had afterwards been extended to the neighbouring British islands, should be levied on the exported produce of the ceded islands. This was done upon the principle, that the crown possessed an absolute dominion over conquered territories. But the demand was opposed by the planters, who insisted, that, if any such dominion ever existed, it was relinquished by the proclamation, which invited British subjects to settle the islands, with the assurance of enjoying the British constitution. The dispute was at length carried to the court of King's bench, where judgement was given against the crown; and thenceforth those islands are exempted from a burthen, which lies hard upon all the other British West-India islands except Jamaica.

December 23<sup>d</sup>—An act was passed for permitting the importation of Indian corn (or maize) on paying a duty of one penny per quarter, at any time when barley may be lawfully imported on paying a duty of twopence. [15 *Geo. III*, c. 1.]

It was estimated that the poor's rate for England and Wales, which about the year 1685 was £665,362, and in Queen Anne's reign stood about £1,000,000, rose to £3,000,000 about the year 1750, and was the same this year †.

About this time there was much talk of the flourishing state of some manufactures lately established in Spain, whereby some millions of piastres were said to be annually saved to that country. The horrible power of the inquisition was greatly abridged in Spain this year, which might render a residence in that country more tolerable to foreigners, who might be instrumental in promoting useful manufactures; but it requires the experience of many years to ascertain whether the new manufactures of Spain will have much influence on the general commerce of Europe.

The king of Sweden this year imposed heavy duties on woollen cloths, watches, and several other articles, which the Swedes used to get chiefly from Great Britain. And he proposed those duties as a fund for establishing and encouraging similar manufactures in his own country.

The king of Denmark went farther; for he totally prohibited the importation of woollen goods, giving as a reason, that the manufactures of his own country were fully sufficient to answer the demand.

The trade with Portugal, usually so highly extolled, was now sunk down to less than half of what it used to be formerly.

By the report of the British consul at Hamburgh the merchandize imported into that city from Great Britain, Ireland, and the British

\* For an account of the manner in which the duty of four and a half per cent was imposed or obtained, see *Edwards's Hist. of the West-Indies*, V. i, p. 333, second ed.

† For the preceding years see the elaborate work of Sir Frederic Morton Eden on *The State of the poor*, V. i, pp. 29, 314.

colonies in the course of this year amounted in value to £879,762 : 6 : 0 sterling, and the French goods carried to the same city to 1,157,170 : 8 : 0. There arrived this year at Hamburgh 697 trading vessels, of which 248 were British. It is worthy of remark, that of 23 vessels from Shetland with herrings, 19 were Danish, only 2 Dutch, and only 2 British; and of 52 whale ships from Davis's straits and Greenland, 45 belonged to Hamburgh. There were 74 vessels from Russia and the Baltic loaded with corn only.

The goods imported at Bremen this year from Great Britain and Ireland amounted to - - - £162,561 : 11 : 0  
and those from France, to - - - 251,523 : 17 : 0

In the course of this year the following vessels passed the Sound.

|         |       |          |     |            |     |       |
|---------|-------|----------|-----|------------|-----|-------|
| Danish  | 892   | Prussian | 284 | Portuguese | 2   | Total |
| Dutch   | 2,447 | Russian  | 36  | Lubeck     | 47  |       |
| English | 2,385 | Dantzick | 194 | Ostend     | 14  |       |
| Swedish | 1,227 | Rostock  | 59  | Emden      | 207 |       |
| French  | 39    | Hamburgh | 40  | Oldenburg  | 3   |       |
| Bremen  | 186   | Spanish  | 18  | Courland   | 4   |       |
| <hr/>   |       | <hr/>    |     | <hr/>      |     |       |
| 7,176   |       | 631      |     | 277        |     | 8,084 |

The industrious trading town of Leeds was found by an exact enumeration to contain 8,041 men and boys, and 9,076 women and girls, being 17,117 inhabitants in 4,099 families.

The great improvement of the cultivation of Jamaica will appear from a comparison of the statement, already given, of its exports in the year 1768, with the following account of its exports in this year, which was taken by Mr. Edwards from the official books in the island.

| To                            | Sugar,<br>hhd. 16 cwt.<br>each | Rum,<br>punchons<br>110 gals. each | Melasses<br>gallons | Pimento<br>cwt. | Ginger,<br>bags 70 lbs. | Cotton,<br>bags 200 lbs. | Coffee,<br>bags 100 lbs. | Indigo,<br>barrels 300 lbs. | Logwood and<br>Fustick, tons | Mahogany,<br>feet | Hides. |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| Great Britain<br>and Ireland. | 76,344                         | 17,348                             | 4,140               | 14,625          | 2,348                   | 2,022                    | 3,684                    | 437                         | 1,286½                       | 117,200           | 656    |
| North<br>America.             | 1,960                          | 8,726                              | 57,060              | 693             | 579                     | 88                       | 2,863                    | 1                           | 26½                          | 12,080            | 8,636  |
|                               | <hr/>                          | <hr/>                              | <hr/>               | <hr/>           | <hr/>                   | <hr/>                    | <hr/>                    | <hr/>                       | <hr/>                        | <hr/>             | <hr/>  |
|                               | 78,304                         | 26,074                             | 61,200              | 15,318          | 2,927                   | 2,110                    | 6,547                    | 438                         | 1,313                        | 129,280           | 9,292  |

It is proper to observe, that the great decrease in melasses (compared with the exportation of 1768) may be ascribed, partly to a greater quantity having been used in the distillery, the quantity of rum being larger this year in proportion to the sugar than in 1768, and perhaps, partly to a more favourable season, which produces better sugar, and,

consequently, less melasses. The decrease of ginger and cotton may be owing to the planters of those smaller articles engaging in sugar plantations; and as to the decrease of the woods, it is to be considered, that they are chiefly obtained by clearing uncultivated land, and that, consequently, the quantity of them must decrease, as the cultivation of the country advances. The whole value of the above produce, together with some smaller articles not here mentioned, was estimated at the current prices to be two millions sterling.

The following retrospect of the fishery and trade of Newfoundland is extracted from the returns of the admirals commanding on that station.

|                          | Vessels. | Tonnage. | Seamen<br>and<br>passengers. | Quintals of<br>fish cured. | Tuns of<br>train oil. | Tierces of<br>salmon exported. | Seal oil; and<br>oil, skins, and<br>teeth of sea-<br>cows; value. | Furs obtained by<br>hunting and<br>trade; value. |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| In the year 1769.        |          |          |                              |                            |                       |                                |   |  |
| British fishing vessels  | 354      | 23,047   | 11,089                       | 221,340                    | 863                   | 919                            | £ 7,641   | £ 1,127  |
| British sack vessels     | 117      | 12,071   | 1,232                        |                            |                       |                                |   |  |
| American vessels         | 120      | 8,706    | 727*                         |                            |                       |                                |   |  |
| Bye boats                | 429      |          | 3,147                        | 93,220                     | 446                   |                                |   |  |
| Boats of the inhabitants | 1,333    |          |                              | 263,464                    | 1,226                 |                                |   |  |
| 1770.                    |          |          |                              |                            |                       |                                |   |  |
| British fishing vessels  | 368      | 22,045   | 11,794                       | 252,910                    | 722                   | 649                            | 13,657  | 1,028  |
| Sack vessels             | 123      | 13,363   | 1,298                        |                            |                       |                                |   |  |
| American vessels         | 138      | 6,086    | 781                          |                            |                       |                                |   |  |
| Bye boats                | 444      |          | 3,865                        | 118,768                    | 536                   |                                |   |  |
| Boats of the inhabitants | 1,229    |          |                              | 277,820                    | 1,334                 |                                |   |  |
| 1771.                    |          |          |                              |                            |                       |                                |   |  |
| British fishing vessels  | 369      | 21,954   | 11,976                       | 236,080                    | 779                   | 1,258                          | 6,799   | 1,109  |
| Sack vessels             | 120      | 10,995   | 1,118                        |                            |                       |                                |   |  |
| American vessels         | 123      | 8,475    | 865                          |                            |                       |                                |   |  |
| Bye boats                | 559      |          | 6,527                        | 147,599                    | 718                   |                                |   |  |
| Boats of the inhabitants | 1,173    |          |                              | 261,240                    | 1,226                 |                                |   |  |
| 1772.                    |          |          |                              |                            |                       |                                |   |  |
| British fishing vessels  | 306      | 20,950   | 11,803                       | 305,391                    | 651                   | 734                            | 14,091  | 1,066  |
| Sack vessels             | 146      | 14,508   | 1,344                        |                            |                       |                                |   |  |
| American vessels         | 138      | 6,787    | 760                          |                            |                       |                                |   |  |
| Bye boats                | 605      |          | 7,251                        | 155,847                    | 890                   |                                |   |  |
| Boats of the inhabitants | 1,330    |          |                              | 298,605                    | 1,254                 |                                |   |  |
| 1773.                    |          |          |                              |                            |                       |                                |   |  |
| British fishing vessels  | 262      | 18,855   | 9,408                        | 262,925                    | 864                   | 3,543                          | 27,840  | 1,359  |
| Sack vessels             | 93       | 8,553    | 786                          |                            |                       |                                |   |  |
| American vessels         | 125      | 5,962    | 713                          |                            |                       |                                |   |  |
| Bye boats                | 560      |          | 5,107                        | 150,957                    | 767                   |                                |   |  |
| Boats of the inhabitants | 1,276    |          |                              | 366,446                    | 1,612                 |                                |   |  |
| 1774.                    |          |          |                              |                            |                       |                                |   |  |
| British fishing vessels  | 254      | 22,182   | 7,836                        | 237,640                    | 680                   | 3,501                          | 18,670  | 85   |
| Sack vessels             | 149      | 15,179   | 1,370                        |                            |                       |                                |   |  |
| American vessels         | 175      | 8,972    | 936                          |                            |                       |                                |   |  |
| Bye boats                | 518      |          | 5,716                        | 145,800                    | 856                   |                                |   |  |
| Boats of the inhabitants | 1,446    |          |                              | 312,426                    | 1,426                 |                                |   |  |

\* The American vessels were partly traders, and partly fishers; but the quantity of fish, oil, &c. procured by them was not returned to the admirals, and is therefore unknown.

The number of inhabitants remaining through the winter on the island during these years was sometimes under 11,000, and never amounted to 12,000; and the land cultivated by them was only from one to two thousand acres.

The following account, showing the state of the French fishery at Newfoundland, is also taken from the returns\* of the British admiral commanding on that station:

|                        | Vessels. | Tun-<br>nage. | Boats. | Men.   | Quintals<br>of fish<br>cured. | Hogsheads<br>of oil. |
|------------------------|----------|---------------|--------|--------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| In the year 1769 ..... | 431      | 44,727        | 1,455  | 12,367 | 215,030                       | 3,153                |
| 1770 .....             | 437      | 45,541        | 1,470  | 12,855 | 435,340                       | 3,511                |
| 1771 .....             | 419      | 42,369        | 1,327  | 12,640 | 239,864                       | 4,259                |
| 1772 .....             | 330      | 37,257        | 1,468  | 15,248 | 388,800                       | 4,687                |
| 1773 .....             | 284      | 33,332        | 1,452  | 14,476 | 336,250                       | 3,358                |
| 1774 .....             | 273      | 31,530        | 1,614  | 15,137 | 368,215                       | 3,377                |

Besides the above numbers of quintals of fish there were 470,000 fish by tale in the year 1769, and 470,000 also in the year 1771.

|   |   |       |   |   |   |         |
|---|---|-------|---|---|---|---------|
| There belonged this year to all the ports of                  |   |       |   |   |   |         |
| England 7,559 vessels of the reputed burthen of 588,620 tuns, |   |       |   |   |   |         |
| and of Scotland 1,646   | - | -     | - | - | - | 93,342  |
| Total   | - | 9,205 | - | - | - | 681,962 |

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain from and to foreign countries, including repeated voyages,

|           | British. |         | Foreign. |         | Total.   |         |
|-----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
|           | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.   |
| Inward -  | 8,587    | 820,961 | 1,231    | 135,476 | 9,818    | 956,437 |
| Outward - | 9,524    | 808,904 | 566      | 68,980  | 10,090   | 877,884 |

The net amount of the customs, including the West-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the course of this year, was - - - - - £2,567,769 : 17 : 3 being all from the custom-house in London, the Scottish revenue of the customs being wholly employed in paying fishery bounties, drawbacks, &c.

There were coined at the mint in the course of this year 100,280 pounds of gold, value - - - - - £4,685,623 : 11 : 0 and no silver.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Christmas 1773 to Christmas 1774, was as follows.

| Countries, &c.            | Imported into   |                |  | Exported from   |                 |  |
|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|
|                           | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.      |  | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.       |  |
| Africa - - -              | £56,503 8 7     |                |  | £846,525 12 5   |                 |  |
| Canaries - - -            | 6,134 3 6       |                |  | 43,707 0 10     |                 |  |
| Denmark and Norway        | 101,500 12 10   | £27,984 15 9   |  | 193,103 9 6     | £23,268 17 5    |  |
| East country - -          | 351,825 13 6    |                |  | 82,723 11 6     |                 |  |
| East-India - - -          | 1,386,984 18 3  |                |  | 546,213 6 4     |                 |  |
| Flanders - - -            | 120,013 15 6    |                |  | 917,490 4 2     |                 |  |
| France - - -              | 68,292 7 7      | 5,864 11 1     |  | 197,189 10 6    | 226,461 15 9    |  |
| Germany - - -             | 791,324 3 11    | 35,464 11 8    |  | 1,572,611 10 11 | 45,554 8 5      |  |
| Greenland - - -           | 51,268 15 6     | 6,829 10 6     |  | 17 11 4         |                 |  |
| Holland - - -             | 604,481 12 9    | 110,015 6 2    |  | 1,787,669 12 7  | 421,617 5 2     |  |
| Ireland - - -             | 1,447,497 6 10  | 154,744 12 0   |  | 2,105,826 15 5  | 232,078 15 0    |  |
| Mann - - -                | 7,419 1 8       | 84 12 3        |  | 24,980 15 1     | 158 1 0         |  |
| Italy - - -               | 736,571 19 11   | 302 12 8       |  | 739,847 11 11   | 9,054 6 0       |  |
| Madeira - - -             | 3,124 9 10      | 56 0 11        |  | 25,495 2 5      | 6 6 0           |  |
| Poland - - -              |                 | 10,194 13 1    |  |                 | 523 8 4         |  |
| Portugal - - -            | 371,247 12 7    | 20,306 11 0    |  | 558,158 14 11   | 791 13 3        |  |
| Prussia - - -             |                 | 20,849 12 0    |  |                 | 114 2 6         |  |
| Russia - - -              | 1,161,283 18 6  | 149,124 16 1   |  | 254,622 13 7    | 7,402 4 7       |  |
| Spain - - -               | 582,902 18 5    | 10,785 4 2     |  | 969,762 19 4    | 67,478 10 10    |  |
| Gibraltar - - -           |                 | 20 2 5         |  |                 | 2,536 4 1       |  |
| Straits - - -             | 442 13 0        |                |  | 192,745 4 10    |                 |  |
| Sweden - - -              | 190,710 14 6    | 22,943 13 5    |  | 88,230 13 2     | 7,163 1 7       |  |
| Teneriffe - - -           |                 | 209 3 6        |  |                 |                 |  |
| Turkey - - -              | 143,322 4 0     |                |  | 160,053 0 6     |                 |  |
| Venice - - -              | 60,108 4 2      |                |  | 92,284 1 7      |                 |  |
| Guernsey, &c. -           | 48,049 10 2     | 730 9 3        |  | 72,639 14 10    |                 |  |
| America in general -      |                 | 504,572 18 7   |  |                 | 260,033 6 11    |  |
| Hudson's bay - -          | 13,446 12 1     |                |  | 4,961 4 5       |                 |  |
| Newfoundland - -          | 46,234 1 5      |                |  | 77,263 4 4      |                 |  |
| Cape Breton - - -         |                 |                |  | 321 18 9        |                 |  |
| Quebec - - -              | 74,123 8 3      |                |  | 307,635 10 5    |                 |  |
| Nova-Scotia - - -         | 1,675 18 2      |                |  | 47,148 16 10    |                 |  |
| New-England - - -         | 112,248 8 2     |                |  | 562,476 2 4     |                 |  |
| New-York - - -            | 80,008 5 9      |                |  | 437,937 12 1    |                 |  |
| Pennsylvania - - -        | 69,611 8 4      |                |  | 625,652 3 3     |                 |  |
| Maryland and Virginia     | 612,030 17 9    |                |  | 528,738 5 4     |                 |  |
| Carolina - - -            | 432,302 16 1    |                |  | 378,116 17 11   |                 |  |
| Georgia - - -             | 67,647 8 5      |                |  | 57,518 10 2     |                 |  |
| Florida - - -             | 22,335 19 5     |                |  | 52,149 14 4     |                 |  |
| West-Indies in general    |                 | 121,192 15 11  |  |                 | 67,900 4 0      |  |
| Antigua - - -             | 327,094 0 1     |                |  | 109,055 15 4    |                 |  |
| Barbados - - -            | 210,874 10 10   |                |  | 153,288 12 4    |                 |  |
| Bermuda - - -             | 3 6 8           |                |  | 10,089 7 7      |                 |  |
| Dominica - - -            | 244,729 16 2    |                |  | 46,952 3 5      |                 |  |
| Grenada - - -             | 461,811 15 7    |                |  | 115,453 17 6    |                 |  |
| Jamaica - - -             | 1,496,686 7 9   |                |  | 674,949 6 4     |                 |  |
| Montserrat - - -          | 67,661 9 7      |                |  | 16,464 7 0      |                 |  |
| Nevis - - -               | 92,656 7 10     |                |  | 17,820 19 4     |                 |  |
| New-Providence - -        | 1,836 17 6      |                |  | 1,459 3 5       |                 |  |
| St. Croix - - -           | 406 9 4         |                |  |                 |                 |  |
| St. Eustathius - -        | 322 18 4        |                |  |                 |                 |  |
| St. Christophers - -      | 288,278 12 2    |                |  | 99,044 4 1      |                 |  |
| St. Vincents - - -        | 160,059 13 11   |                |  | 52,944 19 9     |                 |  |
| Tobago - - -              | 45,038 3 9      |                |  | 36,681 15 2     |                 |  |
| Tortola - - -             | 57,889 15 9     |                |  | 10,708 17 2     |                 |  |
| Bay of Honduras - -       | 25,253 19 7     |                |  | 3,250 19 5      |                 |  |
| Musquito shore - -        | 8,694 9 8       |                |  | 10,359 7 6      |                 |  |
| Imp. and exp. of England  | 13,275,599 9 10 |                |  | 15,916,343 13 2 |                 |  |
| Imp. and exp. of Scotland | 1,202,276 12 5  | 1,202,276 12 5 |  | 1,372,142 10 10 | 1,372,142 10 10 |  |
| Total, Great Britain -    | 14,477,876 2 3  |                |  | 17,288,486 4 0  |                 |  |



1775—The net duties, paid at the custom-house of Dublin between 3<sup>d</sup> January 1774 and 3<sup>d</sup> January 1775, amounted to £352,309 on goods imported, and £2,951 on goods exported, being in all £355,260.

A new method of ascertaining the longitude by observing the distance of the moon from the sun with an instrument invented by Messieurs Turnbull and Latimer was tried, and found to answer with the greatest exactness, so that the longitude may be determined by it at sea at all times when the observation can be made.

February 17<sup>th</sup>—Low-priced wool-cards were permitted to be exported to the British colonies in America, notwithstanding the act of last session against the exportation of manufacturing utensils.—[15 *Geo. III*, c. 5.]

March 23<sup>d</sup>—The free importation of salted provisions from Ireland and the colonies in America was continued till the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 1776; and potatoes and all kinds of pulse were now permitted to be imported free from Ireland during the same time.—[15 *Geo. III*, c. 7.]

March 30<sup>th</sup>—The American colonists having resolved not to have any trading intercourse with Britain till their grievances should be redressed, the parliament, notwithstanding many and very strong petitions, from the West-India planters (who dreaded the ruin of their estates by the want of the usual supplies of American provisions and lumber) from the merchants of London, and from all the trading and manufacturing towns in the three kingdoms, passed an act to restrain the people of Massachusetts bay, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode island, and Providence plantation (which provinces pass under the general name of New-England) from trading to any other country, notwithstanding the indulgences formerly granted with respect to salt for the fisheries, wines from Madeira and the Western islands, and victual and linen from Ireland. They were also deprived of the liberty of sending their fishing vessels to the coasts of Newfoundland, Labrador, or Nova Scotia, or in short any part of the coast of North America; and all such vessels were declared liable to seizure after the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 1775, unless provided with certificates from the governor of the colony they sailed from.

Vessels fitted out before the 1<sup>st</sup> of July solely for the whale fishery, vessels entirely owned in the island of Nantucket, and vessels fitted out for catching mackerel, shads, and alewives, owned in the towns of Marshfield and Scituate, were exempted from the rigour of this act.—[15 *Geo. III*, c. 10.]

April 13<sup>th</sup>—The restriction laid by parliament upon the trade and fisheries of the New-England provinces, was now extended to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina.—[15 *Geo. III*, c. 18.]

But before the passing of these acts could be heard of in America, the long-impending and threatening clouds had burst in deeds of open hostility, the event of which was to determine the fate of the colonies.

The former restraining laws, which were expected to crush the spirit of opposition, had served only to add fuel to the fire, and instead of dividing the colonists by the expectation of advantages, which might accrue to other places from the annihilation of the trade of Boston, they excited a generous sympathy for the sufferers in, what was considered as, the general cause of America, with a determination to assist them by all possible means, and to stand or fall together. In short, the northern and southern colonies, who had scarcely ever before harmonized together, were now knit into a band of brothers, prepared with the most determined resolution to brave every storm of adversity, and to run every risk of life and fortune, in defence of the liberties and privileges they claimed as their birthright. General Gage, the governor of Massachusetts bay and commander in chief of all the British forces in America, had for sometime thought it necessary to act in most cases as if in an enemy's country. The people on the other hand were busily employed in learning the military exercise, and in procuring or manufacturing arms and ammunition of all kinds \*. The fortification of Boston neck, and the seizure of the provincial ammunition and stores lodged at Charlestown and Cambridge (both near Boston) by General Gage, and the seizure of the cannon belonging to government by the people of Rhode-island, and of a small fort called William and Mary by the people of New Hampshire, accelerated that crisis, to which every action on either side had for some time been rapidly tending. At last the appeal was made to the sword in the celebrated skirmish at Lexington, wherein above sixty men were killed on each side, and about twenty British soldiers were taken prisoners by the American militia (April 19<sup>th</sup>). Immediately afterwards the king's forces were besieged in Boston, where they suffered great hardships for want of room, and for want of fresh provisions and vegetables, hitherto supplied from the adjacent country †. The military ardour spread over all the provinces, and the army of THE UNITED COLONIES ‡ started into existence, and was organized at the voice of the congress, who now issued a paper currency for the general use of the whole confederacy, established a general post-office, and, in short, assumed all the functions of government. In the month of July the province of Georgia joined the confederacy, which thenceforth took the

\* Mr. Penn, proprietor of the province of Pennsylvania, in his evidence before the house of lords on the 10th of November 1775, said, that they had the means of casting iron cannon in great plenty in Pennsylvania, and that they had already cast brass cannon, and made great quantities of small arms of a very good quality.

† To add to their hardships, a large reinforcement arrived to crowd them through the summer: and what ought not to be omitted, they had the company of the commissioners and other officers of

the customs, who, when the harbour of Boston was shut up by law, had removed to Salem, whence (the non-importation agreement rendering their residence unnecessary, and the temper of the people rendering it unsafe) they returned to Boston to be under the protection of the army, and there exhibited the singular spectacle of a custom-house at a port, where no ships were permitted to enter or clear out.

‡ That was the appellation then assumed by the confederated provinces.

appellation of THE THIRTEEN UNITED COLONIES.—But the events of the war which ensued, except as they affected commerce and our remaining colonies (for the thirteen revolted colonies were in fact from this time completely detached from the British empire) do not come within the plan of this work, but belong to the province of the general historian.

As more suitable to the nature of this work, it may be proper here to take a review of the principal branches of the commerce of the American colonies before they were dislevered from the mother country, as it may be useful for a comparison with the commerce of the United States of America in their independent condition.

The soil of the New-England provinces scarcely furnishes provisions sufficient to support the inhabitants. Their industry has therefor been chiefly directed to the sea, to fishing, navigation, and the various branches of business subservient to them. The cod, salmon, mackerel, sturgeon, and other species of fish, which frequent their coasts and their rivers in prodigious shoals, afforded employment to great numbers in taking, curing, and packing them. The New-Englanders also frequented the banks and coasts of Newfoundland and the fishing grounds in the Gulf of St. Laurence as far as the coasts of Labrador. Besides their own fishing they procured from the Newfoundland fishermen a part of the fish taken by them in exchange for rum of their own manufacture, and other articles of American and West-Indian produce\*. The fish, after being sorted in their harbours, were shipped off to the countries, for which each quality was best adapted. The best were carried to the southern parts of Europe, and the proceeds were generally remitted to Great Britain in bills of exchange to pay for the goods they had occasion for. A small quantity of the best fish was also brought to Britain: and the inferior sorts were destined to give a relish to the plantains and yams, which constitute the principal part of the food of the negro slaves in the West-Indies. After the peace of 1763 they increased their whale fishery in the seas between their own coasts and Labrador, in consequence of the encouragement given to it by the great reduction of the duties on their oil and whale fins (by the act 4 Geo. III, c. 29) so much, that instead of 80 or 90 sloops, which had formerly gone upon the whale

\* The following account of rum exported from the colonies now forming the United States (chiefly from New-England) to the provinces of Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Newfoundland, affords a specimen of the extent of that trade during a few years preceding the revolution.

|                         | 1770    | 1771    | 1772    | 1773    |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| West-India rum, gallons | 52,712  | 36,873  | 47,736  | 50,716  |
| American rum, ditto     | 590,748 | 550,614 | 520,525 | 608,025 |
|                         | 643,460 | 587,387 | 568,261 | 658,741 |

For this account I am indebted to Mr. Chalmer's *Opinions on American independence*, p. 127.

fishery, they employed 160 in that business before the year 1775: and the other branches of their fishery increased in the same proportion. In addition to the commerce supported by the produce of their fisheries, they drove a very profitable circuitous carrying trade, which greatly enriched them, and supplied most of the money, which circulated among them. Besides building vessels for the service of their own commerce, they built great numbers, but of no very good quality of wood or workmanship, for sale: and from the melasses, which they brought in great quantities from the West-Indies (chiefly from the French islands) they distilled a kind of rum, which, though much inferior to that of the West-Indies, was very acceptable to the Indians, who joyfully received it in exchange for their furs and peltry. They also found a great vent for it among their own fishermen and others engaged in the Newfoundland fishery: and they carried considerable quantities of it to Africa, where they exchanged it for slaves, or sold it to the resident European slave-merchants for gold dust, ivory, woods, wax, and gums. The candles made of sperma-ceti, furnished by their whale fishery, formed also an article of export to the amount of three or four hundred thousand pound weight in a year, besides what were consumed upon the continent. Their exports to Great Britain consisted chiefly of fish oil, whale bone (or fins), masts and other spars, to which were added several raw materials for manufactures collected in their circuitous trading voyages, and a balance paid in foreign gold and silver coins. In short, their earnest application to fisheries and the carrying trade, together with their unremitting attention to the most minute article which could be made to yield a profit, obtained them the appellation of *the Dutchmen of America*.

New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, have a much better soil than that of the New-England provinces, and they produce corn and cattle of all kinds in great abundance, and also hemp, flax, and lumber; to which may be added iron, pot-ashes, and pearl-ashes. Their exports were corn of all kinds, flour, and bread, in great quantities; salted provisions of all sorts; live stock, including horses, horned cattle, hogs, and sheep, and all kinds of poultry in great numbers; flax, and hemp; boards, scantling, staves, shingles, and wooden houses framed and ready to set up\*; iron in pigs and bars; and vessels, superior in workmanship to those of New-England. Their chief markets for these commodities were the British and foreign West-Indies, Spain, Portugal, the Western islands, Madeira, and the Canary islands, whence they carried home the produce of each country and bullion. Great Britain and Ireland received from them iron, hemp, flax-seed, some lumber, and skins and furs the produce of their trade with the Indians; together with some articles of their imports from other provinces and from foreign coun-

\* I have been told, that the whole of the original houses of the town at Cape Nicola mole were carried from Philadelphia.

tries which were raw materials for British manufactures, and bullion.

Maryland and Virginia almost from their first settlement made tobacco the principal object of their culture, and it long continued to constitute the most valuable export of British America. But the quantity of tobacco was diminishing in these provinces for many years before the revolution, owing to the soil being exhausted by it; and the planters had turned much of their tobacco land to the cultivation of wheat and other grain\*. Their tobacco could by law be exported only to Great Britain: but their corn, flour, lumber, &c. were carried to the West-Indies and elsewhere.

North Carolina produced also some tobacco; and it furnished pitch, tar, and turpentine, of which about 130,000 barrels were annually exported, whereof the greatest part came to Britain. The exports to the West-Indies consisted mostly of salt pork, Indian corn, peas, &c. But the foreign trade of this province was very trifling in proportion to its great extent, and even to the quantity of its productions, and was mostly in the hands of the merchants of the adjacent provinces of Virginia and South Carolina, and of the New-Englanders.

In South Carolina and Georgia rice and indigo were the staple articles. The former grows on the marshy grounds near the coast, and the later on the dry soil of the inland country. The planters had for some time applied to the culture of tobacco†; and they made considerable quantities of lumber. Their exports consisted of these articles; and the merchants of Charlestown also shipped some skins obtained by trade with the neighbouring Indians, and part of the produce of North Carolina.

The following accounts, copied from those of the custom-house for years nearly preceding the revolution, will show the state of the navigation and commerce of the colonies, which now compose the United States of America.

\* These two countries are now next to Pennsylvania and New York in the exportation of flour and corn.

† It is only of late that the cultivation of the excellent species of cotton, which is now enriching the planters of Georgia, was introduced.

*An account of the number and tunnage of vessels built in the several provinces under-mentioned in the years 1769, 1770, and 1771.*

|                   | 1769                   |                       |          | 1770                   |                       |          | 1771                   |                       |          |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
|                   | Square-rigged vessels. | Sloops and schooners. | Tunnage. | Square-rigged vessels. | Sloops and schooners. | Tunnage. | Square-rigged vessels. | Sloops and schooners. | Tunnage. |
| New Hampshire     | 16                     | 29                    | 2,452    | 27                     | 20                    | 3,581    | 15                     | 40                    | 4,991    |
| Massachusetts bay | 40                     | 97                    | 8,013    | 31                     | 118                   | 7,274    | 42                     | 83                    | 7,704    |
| Rhode island      | 8                      | 31                    | 1,428    | 16                     | 49                    | 2,035    | 15                     | 60                    | 2,148    |
| Connecticut       | 7                      | 43                    | 1,542    | 5                      | 41                    | 1,522    | 7                      | 39                    | 1,483    |
| New York          | 5                      | 14                    | 955      | 8                      | 10                    | 960      | 9                      | 28                    | 1,698    |
| New Jersey        | 1                      | 3                     | 83       |                        |                       |          |                        | 2                     | 70       |
| Pennsylvania      | 14                     | 8                     | 1,469    | 8                      | 8                     | 2,354    | 15                     | 6                     | 1,307    |
| Maryland          | 9                      | 11                    | 1,344    | 7                      | 10                    | 1,545    | 10                     | 8                     | 1,645    |
| Virginia          | 6                      | 21                    | 1,269    | 6                      | 15                    | 1,105    | 10                     | 9                     | 1,678    |
| North Carolina    | 3                      | 9                     | 607      |                        | 5                     | 125      |                        | 8                     | 241      |
| South Carolina    | 4                      | 8                     | 789      |                        | 3                     | 52       | 3                      | 4                     | 560      |
| Georgia           |                        | 2                     | 50       |                        | 3                     | 57       | 2                      | 4                     | 543      |
| Totals            | 113                    | 276                   | 20,001   | 118                    | 282                   | 20,610   | 128                    | 291                   | 24,068   |

*An account of the tunnage of the shipping entered inwards in the several provinces undermentioned in the years 1769 and 1770.*

|                | 1769                            |                                       |                                  |                                   |         | 1770                            |                                       |                                  |                                   |         |
|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
|                | From Great Britain and Ireland. | Southern parts of Europe, and Africa. | British and foreign West Indies. | Continent of America, Bahama, &c. | Totals. | From Great Britain and Ireland. | Southern parts of Europe, and Africa. | British and foreign West Indies. | Continent of America, Bahama, &c. | Totals. |
| New Hampshire  | 915                             | 9,500                                 | 480                              | 5,551                             | 16,446  | 1,200                           |                                       | 10,300                           | 3,862                             | 15,362  |
| Massachusetts  | 14,340                          | 17,898                                | 6,595                            | 27,618                            | 66,451  | 13,916                          | 6,213                                 | 19,917                           | 25,225                            | 65,271  |
| Rhode island   | 415                             | 5,958                                 | 226                              | 10,237                            | 16,836  | 400                             | 101                                   | 7,121                            | 11,045                            | 18,667  |
| Connecticut    | 150                             | 7,790                                 | 105                              | 9,971                             | 18,016  | 210                             |                                       | 8,656                            | 10,357                            | 19,223  |
| New York       | 5,224                           | 6,964                                 | 2,730                            | 11,714                            | 26,632  | 5,722                           | 3,354                                 | 8,695                            | 7,768                             | 25,539  |
| New Jersey     |                                 | 257                                   | 25                               | 654                               | 936     |                                 | 140                                   | 365                              | 513                               | 1,018   |
| Pennsylvania   | 9,309                           | 12,521                                | 10,745                           | 12,453                            | 45,028  | 7,917                           | 15,010                                | 15,883                           | 12,091                            | 50,901  |
| Maryland       | 15,486                          | 4,533                                 | 4,095                            | 6,574                             | 30,688  | 13,693                          | 5,005                                 | 5,093                            | 6,686                             | 30,477  |
| Virginia       | 20,652                          | 11,612                                | 4,600                            | 10,373                            | 47,237  | 21,236                          | 4,403                                 | 9,547                            | 9,617                             | 44,803  |
| North Carolina | 6,415                           | 6,702                                 | 700                              | 9,259                             | 23,076  | 6,202                           | 440                                   | 5,930                            | 8,391                             | 20,963  |
| South Carolina | 15,281                          | 6,893                                 | 3,325                            | 5,608                             | 31,107  | 10,163                          | 2,256                                 | 10,588                           | 6,797                             | 29,804  |
| Georgia        | 2,523                           | 4,288                                 | 525                              | 2,357                             | 9,693   | 2,275                           | 795                                   | 4,618                            | 2,226                             | 9,914   |
| Totals         | 90,710                          | 94,916                                | 34,151                           | 112,369                           | 332,146 | 82,934                          | 37,717                                | 106,713                          | 104,578                           | 331,942 |



*An account of the tunnage of the shipping entered outwards in the several provinces under-mentioned in the years 1769 and 1770.*

|                | 1769                                |   |  |  |         | 1770                                |   |  |  |         |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|---------|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|---------|
|                | To<br>Great Britain<br>and Ireland. | Southern parts<br>of Europe,<br>and Africa. | British and<br>foreign<br>West Indies. | Continent<br>of America,<br>Bahamas, &c. | Totals. | To<br>Great Britain<br>and Ireland. | Southern parts<br>of Europe,<br>and Africa. | British<br>and foreign<br>West Indies. | Continent<br>of America,<br>Bahamas, &c. | Totals. |
| New Hampshire  | 2,822                               | 170   | 12,878                                 | 3,874                                    | 19,744  | 1,910                               | 185   | 12,419                                 | 5,678                                    | 20,192  |
| Massachusetts  | 14,044                              | 5,102                                       | 17,532                                 | 26,988                                   | 63,666  | 13,778                              | 5,419                                       | 20,937                                 | 30,128                                   | 70,282  |
| Rhode island   | 540                                 | 863   | 6,060                                  | 10,312                                   | 17,775  | 955                                 | 755   | 6,779                                  | 12,172                                   | 20,661  |
| Connecticut    | 580                                 | 200   | 9,201                                  | 7,985                                    | 17,966  | 426                                 | 180   | 9,923                                  | 9,734                                    | 20,263  |
| New York       | 6,470                               | 3,483                                       | 5,466                                  | 11,440                                   | 26,859  | 7,357                               | 3,018                                       | 7,005                                  | 9,273                                    | 26,653  |
| New Jersey     |                                     |   | 555                                    | 538                                      | 1,093   |                                     |   | 648                                    | 533                                      | 1,181   |
| Pennsylvania   | 7,219                               | 12,070                                      | 11,939                                 | 11,736                                   | 42,986  | 7,999                               | 11,395                                      | 14,839                                 | 15,421                                   | 49,654  |
| Maryland       | 16,116                              | 6,224                                       | 3,358                                  | 5,298                                    | 30,996  | 17,967                              | 5,337                                       | 5,118                                  | 5,032                                    | 33,474  |
| Virginia       | 24,594                              | 7,486                                       | 11,397                                 | 8,531                                    | 52,008  | 25,123                              | 3,682                                       | 10,006                                 | 6,278                                    | 45,179  |
| North Carolina | 7,805                               | 1,030                                       | 6,945                                  | 7,333                                    | 23,113  | 7,393                               | 655   | 6,893                                  | 6,549                                    | 21,490  |
| South Carolina | 15,902                              | 5,773                                       | 6,377                                  | 5,808                                    | 33,855  | 12,457                              | 6,291                                       | 8,194                                  | 5,089                                    | 32,031  |
| Georgia        | 3,029                               | 200   | 4,654                                  | 1,358                                    | 9,241   | 3,460                               | 320   | 5,179                                  | 1,646                                    | 10,604  |
| Totals         | 90,121                              | 42,601                                      | 96,382                                 | 101,198                                  | 339,302 | 98,025                              | 37,237                                      | 108,150                                | 107,552                                  | 351,664 |

The entries of the shipping employed in the West-India and continental trades are much swelled by the frequent repetition of voyages in the course of one year.

It must be observed, that the tunnage in all the above accounts is taken from the registers of the vessels, and about fifty per cent may be added to it to find the real tunnage. [See Mr. Irving's letter in the *Journal of the house of commons, session 1792, p. 353.*]

*An account of the value, in sterling money, of the imports of the several provinces under-mentioned in the year 1769\*.*

|               | From Great<br>Britain. | From the South<br>of Europe. | From the<br>West Indies. | From Africa. | Total.        |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| N. Hampshire  | 223,695 11 6           | 652 7 6                      | 48,528 18 7              | 180 0 0      | 561,034 3 8   |
| Massachusetts |                        | 21,908 3 6                   | 155,387 1 4              |              |               |
| Rhode island  |                        | 2,580 19 6                   | 56,839 17 3              |              |               |
| Connecticut   |                        | 267 5 3                      | 58,993 17 3              |              |               |
| New York      | 75,930 19 7            | 14,927 7 8                   | 97,420 4 0               | 697 10 0     | 188,976 1 3   |
| New Jersey    |                        | 326 18 2                     | 1,663 19 9               |              | 1,990 17 11   |
| Pennsylvania  | 204,979 17 4           | 14,249 8 4                   | 180,591 12 4             |              | 399,820 16 0  |
| Maryland      | 714,943 15 8           | 4,683 2 3                    | 32,197 13 9              | 5,400 0 0    | 851,140 6 6   |
| Virginia      |                        | 9,442 2 4                    | 77,453 12 6              | 7,020 0 0    |               |
| N. Carolina   | 327,084 8 6            | 932 19 9                     | 10,603 13 3              | 1,080 0 0    | 535,714 2 3   |
| S. Carolina   |                        | 6,166 6 1                    | 65,666 4 8               | 121,180 10 0 |               |
| Georgia       | 58,340 19 4            | 547 7 7                      | 9,407 9 9                | 13,440 0 0   | 81,735 16 8   |
| Totals        | 1,604,975 11 11        | 76,684 9 11                  | 789,754 4 5              | 151,998 0 0  | 2,623,412 6 3 |

\* Raynal has given the trade of all the British continental colonies in this year in a table at the end of the last volume of his *Histoire philosophique*, ed. 1782; wherein he has transposed the imports

and exports from and to Great Britain, or rather he has neglected to transpose them from Sir Charles Whitworth's account; and he has no account at all of the trade of the colonies with Scotland.

*An account of the value, in Sterling money, of the exports of the several provinces under-mentioned in the year 1769.*

|               | To Great Britain. | To the south of Europe. | To the West Indies. | To Africa. | Total.        |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------|
| N. Hampshire  |                   | 464 0 5                 | 40,431 8 4          | 96 11 3    |               |
| Massachusetts | 142,775 12 9      | 76,702 0 4              | 123,394 0 0         | 9,801 9 10 | 550,069 19 2  |
| Rhode island  |                   | 1,440 11 0              | 65,206 13 2         | 7,814 19 8 |               |
| Connecticut   |                   | 2,567 4 5               | 79,395 7 6          |            |               |
| New York      | 113,382 8 8       | 50,885 13 0             | 66,324 17 5         | 1,313 2 6  | 231,906 1 7   |
| New Jersey    |                   |                         | 2,531 16 5          |            | 2,531 16 5    |
| Pennsylvania  | 28,112 6 9        | 203,752 11 11           | 178,331 7 8         | 560 9 9    | 410,756 16 1  |
| Maryland      |                   | 66,555 11 11            | 22,303 9 2          |            | 991,401 18 6  |
| Virginia      | 759,961 5 0       | 73,635 3 4              | 68,946 9 1          |            |               |
| N. Carolina   |                   | 3,238 3 7               | 27,944 7 9          | 71 15 4    | 569,584 17 3  |
| S. Carolina   | 405,014 13 1      | 72,881 9 3              | 59,814 11 6         | 619 16 9   |               |
| Georgia       | 82,270 2 3        | 614 2 0                 | 13,285 15 1         |            | 96,169 19 4   |
| Totals        | 1,531,516 8 6     | 552,736 11 2            | 747,910 3 7         | 20,278 5 1 | 2,852,441 8 4 |

*An account of the principal articles exported from all the British continental colonies, including the islands of Newfoundland, Bahama, and Bermuda, with the places to which they were sent, and their official value at the ports of exportation, during the year 1770\*.*

| Species of merchandize. | To Great Britain. | To Ireland. | To the south of Europe. | To the West Indies. | To Africa. | Totals.   |                          |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------|-----------|--------------------------|
|                         |                   |             |                         |                     |            | Quantity. | Value in sterling money. |
| Pot-ashes - tuns        | 1,173             |             |                         |                     |            | 1,173     | £35,191 18 7             |
| Pearl-ashes - "         | 737               |             |                         |                     |            | 737       | 29,468 10 7              |
| Spermaceti candles - lb | 4,865             | 450         | 14,167                  | 351,625             | 7,905      | 379,012   | 23,688 4 6               |
| Tallow candles - "      |                   |             | 1,630                   | 57,550              | 240        | 59,420    | 1,237 18 4               |
| Coals - chaldrons       |                   |             |                         | 20                  |            | 20        | 25 0 0                   |
| Castorium - lb.         | 7,465             |             |                         |                     |            | 7,465     | 1,679 12 6               |
| Fish, dried - quintals  | 22,086            | 450         | 431,386                 | 206,081             |            | 660,003   | 375,393 17 0             |
| Fish, pickled - barrels | 123               | 25          | 307                     | 29,582              | 31         | 30,068    | 22,551 7 6               |
| Flax-seed - bushels     | 6,780             | 305,083     | 749                     |                     |            | 312,612   | 35,168 18 1              |
| Indian corn - "         |                   | 150         | 175,221                 | 402,958             | 20         | 578,349   | 43,376 4 3               |
| Oats - "                |                   |             | 3,421                   | 21,438              |            | 24,859    | 1,242 19 0               |
| Wheat - "               | 11,739            | 149,985     | 588,561                 | 955                 |            | 851,240   | 131,467 0 10             |
| Peas and beans - "      |                   |             | 1,046                   | 49,337              |            | 50,383    | 10,076 12 0              |
| Ginseng - lb.           | 74,604            |             |                         |                     |            | 74,604    | 1,243 8 0                |
| Hemp - tuns             | 86                |             |                         |                     |            | 86        | 129 11 3                 |
| Iron, pig - "           | 5,747             | 267         |                         |                     |            | 6,017     | 30,088 10 0              |
| Iron, bar - "           | 2,102             | 85          | 273                     | 3                   |            | 24,064    | 36,960 17 3              |
| Iron, cast - "          |                   |             |                         | 2                   |            | 2         | 32 13 11                 |
| Iron, wrought - "       |                   |             |                         | 8                   |            | 8         | 167 7 1                  |
| Indigo - lb.            | 584,593           |             |                         | 83                  |            | 584,672   | 131,552 2 0              |
| Whale oil - tuns        | 5,202             | 22          | 175                     | 268                 |            | 5,667     | 85,012 15 9              |
| Whale fins - lb         | 112,971           |             |                         |                     |            | 112,971   | 19,121 7 6               |
| Linseed oil - tuns      | 161               |             |                         | 7                   |            | 168       | 487 18 3                 |
| Copper ore - "          | 41                |             |                         |                     |            | 41        | 853 13 0                 |
| Lead ore - "            | 6                 |             |                         |                     |            | 6         | 82 10 0                  |
| Bread and flour - "     | 263               | 3,583       | 18,501                  | 23,449              | 72         | 45,868    | 504,553 6 1              |

It is to be remembered that in the account I have given of the trade of all the colonies, who have since withdrawn their allegiance from Great Britain, as also in the subsequent one of the exports of the whole colonies, the prices are rated by the official valuation, and consequently are considerably under the real amount.

\* In this account I have omitted the fractional parts of the quantities,

which are of no use in a general view, but their value is retained in the totals. The attentive reader may find some disagreements between the totals and the particular numbers, owing partly to the omission of the fractional parts, and partly to errors, which I saw, but had no means of correcting.

| Species of merchandize.                             | To Great Britain. | To Ireland.  | To the south of Europe. | To the West Indies. | To Africa.  | Totals.    |                          |
|---|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------|------------|--------------------------|
|   |                   |              |                         |                     |             | Quantity.  | Value in sterling money. |
| Meal - bushels                                      |                   |              |                         | 4,430               |             | 4,430      | £443 0 0                 |
| Potatoes - barrels                                  |                   |              |                         | 3,382               |             | 3,382      | 126 16 6                 |
| Beef and pork - barrels                             |                   |              | 244                     | tuns 2,870          |             |            | 66,035 1 10              |
| Butter - lb.  |                   |              |                         | 167,313             | 300         | 167,613    | 3,491 18 9               |
| Cheese -  |                   |              |                         | 55,997              |             |            | 933 5 8                  |
| New-England rum gallons                             | 600               | 7,931        | 45,310                  | 2,574               | 292,966     | 349,281    | 21,836 0 0               |
| Rice - barrels                                      | 74,073            |              | 36,296                  | 40,033              | 117         | 150,529    | 340,692 15 0             |
| Rough rice - bushels                                |                   |              |                         | 8,200               |             |            | 615 9 0                  |
| American loaf sugar - lb.                           |                   |              | 600                     | 8,548               | 1,500       | 10,648     | 332 15 0                 |
| Raw silk -  | 541               |              |                         |                     |             | 541        | 541 11 3                 |
| Soap -  |                   |              | 550                     | 85,035              | 1,000       | 86,585     | 2,164 12 6               |
| Shoes - pairs                                       |                   |              |                         | 3,149               |             | 3,149      | 393 12 6                 |
| Ship stuff - barrels                                |                   |              | 7,327                   | 640                 |             | 7,967      | 9,958 15 0               |
| Onions - value                                      |                   |              | £116 13 4               | £6,378 16 1         |             |            | 6,495 9 5                |
| Pitch - barrels                                     | 8,268             |              |                         | 822                 | 157         | 9,114      | 3,200 8 0                |
| Tar, common -                                       | 78,115            |              |                         | 3,173               | 134         | 81,422     | 24,426 12 0              |
| Tar, green -  | 653               |              |                         |                     |             | 653        | 261 4 0                  |
| Turpentine -  | 15,125            |              |                         | 1,807               | 82          | 17,014     | 6,805 12 0               |
| Rosin -   | 195               |              |                         | 28                  |             | 223        | 278 15 0                 |
| Oil of turpentine -                                 | 11                |              |                         | 30                  |             | 41         | 102 10 0                 |
| Masts, yards, &c. - tuns                            | 3,043             |              |                         | 2                   |             | 3,045      | 16,630 0 0               |
| Walnut wood - value                                 | £105 15 11        | £9 0 0       |                         |                     |             |            | 114 15 11                |
| Pine, oak, cedar boards - feet                      | 6,013,519         | 329,741      | 486,078                 | 35,922,168          | 4,800       | 42,756,306 | 58,617 15 10             |
| Pine timber - tuns                                  | 10,582            | 30           | 64                      | 315                 |             | 11,011     | 4,404 14 5               |
| Oak timber -  | 3,710             |              |                         | 144                 |             | 3,854      | 3,487 8 2                |
| Houses framed - No.                                 |                   |              |                         | 163                 |             | 163        | 3,260 0 0                |
| Staves and heading -                                | 4,921,020         | 2,828,702    | 1,080,403               | 11,116,741          |             | 20,546,326 | 61,618 19 5              |
| Hoops -   | 18,912            |              | 7,072                   | 3,817,899           | 8,500       | 3,852,383  | 8,067 16 8               |
| Shook hogsheds -                                    |                   |              | 549                     | 62,099              | 30          | 62,676     | 7,834 15 0               |
| Cattle -  |                   |              |                         | 3,184               |             | 3,184      | 14,328 0 0               |
| Horses -  |                   |              |                         | 6,692               |             |            | 60,228 0 0               |
| Sheep and hogs -                                    |                   |              |                         | 12,797              |             |            | 4,478 19 0               |
| Poultry - dozens                                    |                   |              |                         | 2,615               |             | 2,615      | 1,177 1 0                |
| Furs - value  | £91,485 14 9      |              |                         |                     |             |            | 91,485 14 9              |
| Deer skins - lb.                                    | 799,652           | 185          |                         |                     |             | 799,652    | 57,738 19 7              |
| Tobacco - value                                     | £904,981 14 0     |              |                         | 1,509 0 4           | 87 3 9      |            | 906,637 18 1             |
| Tallow and lard - lb.                               | 800               |              |                         | 183,893             | 450         | 185,143    | 3,857 2 11               |
| Bees wax -  | 62,794            | 10,960       | 50,529                  | 1,820               | 2,400       | 129,523    | 6,426 3 0                |
| Total value of articles shipped as American produce | 1,686,654 4 6     | 114,078 13 6 | 685,920 6 4             | 844,178 14 9        | 21,381 16 6 |            | 3,356,159 10 2           |
| Foreign merchandize, mostly from the West Indies    | 65,860 6 9        | 4,699 5 10   | 5,991 17 1              | 4,754 16 0          | 296 12 0    |            | 81,554 17 0              |
| Total exports                                       | 1,752,514 11 3    | 118,776 19 4 | 691,912 3 5             | 848,933 10 9        | 21,678 8 6  |            | 3,437,714 7 2            |

‘ The cash, or specie, of the American states, previous to the non-importation act, which took place in 1775, is computed to have been between two and three millions \*.’

The legislature of Jamaica having in February 1774 laid a duty of £2 currency, in addition to those already subsisting, upon every negro imported, the merchants of London, Bristol, and Liverpool, engaged in the African trade, took the alarm, and petitioned against it.

It was alleged by the agent for the island, that they could find no other means of raising money so ready, that the duty complained of was in fact not paid by the importer, but by the ‘ consumer,’† and that the slave-merchants never failed to charge the buyers with the duty in addition to the stipulated price of the slaves. In December 1774 they laid a still higher duty of £5 on the importation of negroes above thirty years of age, which was equal to a prohibition. This was represented by the agent, not as a measure of revenue, but of self preservation, being intended to check the excessive importation of negroes, which, since the great demand occasioned by settling the ceded islands had ceased, was become an object of terrible apprehension. He stated the number of negroes already in the island to be nearly 220,000 ‡, of whom 52,500 were fencible men; while the number of white people of every description did not exceed 16,000. After considering the arguments on both sides, directions were sent to the governor of Jamaica to prevent the continuance of the tax.

Some time after a report was sent home from Jamaica, exhibiting the number of negroes imported into the island, and also the number exported, from the year 1702 to 1775, both inclusive. In 1702 only 843 negroes were imported, and 327 were exported. There was then no duty on their importation or exportation. In no other year is the number imported so low as 2,200. In 1719 a duty was imposed of 5/ a-head, which next year was raised to 10/; and that same year a duty of 20/ a-head was laid on the exportation of negroes. About this time the annual importation was from five to above seven thousand; but it increased afterwards to eight or ten thousand annually, and continued fluctuating nearly about these numbers till the year 1774, when the heavy duty of £2 : 10 : 0 took place, and then it rose to the unexampled number of 18,448, the number exported that year being only 2,511, though a drawback of £2 was allowed on exportation. The whole number of negroes imported from the beginning of 1702 to the end of

\* I have copied these words from Lord Sheffield. [*Observations on the commerce of America*, p. 210, sixth ed.] But Mr. Coxe says, that estimates, carefully made, appear to warrant a belief that the current specie of the United States in the year 1791 was about seven millions of dollars, or a million and a half of guineas. [*View of the United States*, p. 352.] Can it be supposed that the quantity of

real money in those states was less in 1791 than in 1775?

† Was this word happily, or unhappily, chosen?

‡ If so, above half the number of negroes imported since the year 1702 (see the next paragraph) must have died without leaving progeny, and all the issue of the whole, or numbers equivalent, must have perished.

1775 was 497,736; and the whole number exported during the same time was 137,114. The numbers imported in the second 34 years exceed those in the first 34 by 38,751; and the numbers exported in the later period were not equal to the half of what were exported in the former one; a proof, according to the legislature of Jamaica, that the supply of the Spanish market depended on the overflow of the Jamaica market: and, as the large number imported in 1774 were all sold within the island, they were confident, that they had fully refuted the complaints of the slave-merchants of England.

The king of Prussia, having established two annual fairs in new Prussia, gave orders to his subjects no longer to resort to the fairs of Leipzig. He also built some frigates, and, making merchant-men of them, sent them to Spain for salt to be sold in new Prussia and Poland. His oppression of the unhappy city of Dantzick still continued, and, in consequence, the emigration of the inhabitants; so that the ruin of that once flourishing city was now nearly completed.

About the same time the empress of Russia relieved her subjects from several taxes, which were found oppressive to trade. She also lent some ships to a merchant, in order to commence a trade on the Black sea, as she wished her subjects to carry on an extensive trade upon that sea, the climate of which is so much more favourable than that of the Baltic. But it is worthy of observation, that of the three seas, which *now* wash the shores of her European dominions, that on the north coast is frozen up during a great part of the year; and the other two are inland and land-locked, and, moreover, both have very narrow outlets, which are commanded by foreign powers, who may sometimes not be disposed to be so complaisant as the Porte was to the ten vessels, which were stopped by the governor of the fort at the Dardanelles.

May—The servants employed in the coal-mines and salt-works in Scotland being, by the statute law, adstricted for life to the works to which they belonged, and such a species of slavery being deemed a reproach to a free country, it was enacted that after the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1775, young people, who should learn those businesses, should serve a proper apprenticeship, and at the expiration of it be free; and that the grown people, already engaged in such works, should be at liberty to leave them after serving faithfully during a number of years (from three to ten) proportioned to their ages, whereby the emancipation, though complete, would be gradual, so as to give no sudden shock to the works, or inconvenience to the proprietors. [15 Geo. III, c. 28.]

In order to encourage that great nursery for hardy seamen, the Newfoundland fishery, parliament offered premiums of £40 to each of the first 25 vessels, of £20 to each of the next 100 vessels, and of £10 to each of the next 100, which should on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> of July in each year land on the coasts of Newfoundland, between Cape Ray and Cape



de Gat, a cargo of at least 10,000 fish, and proceed to the banks for a second cargo. The vessels must be British-built, of fifty tons burthen or upwards, belong to Great Britain, Ireland, or the islands in Europe subject to the British crown, and be navigated by not less than fifteen men, three fourths of them besides the master being British subjects. These bounties were to continue till the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 1787. Also vessels, owned and manned as above directed, and prosecuting the whale-fishery in the Gulf of St. Laurence, or on the coasts of Labrador or Newfoundland, and catching one whale at least, were allowed to import their oil free of duty: and five premiums of £500, £400, £300, £200, and £100, were allowed to the five vessels, which should bring the greatest quantities of oil. The skins of seals, caught by European British subjects, were also admitted to be imported free of duty in ships legally navigated. To prevent fishermen and artificers from being lost to the kingdom by going from Newfoundland to America, the commander of a vessel carrying any such person to America was subjected to a penalty of £200: and further, to prevent the fishermen from remaining in Newfoundland (where, as already observed, they generally became robbers or pirates) the employers are directed to retain a part of their wages, to be paid them at their return home. By this act the bounties allowed to ships employed in the whale fishery at Greenland or Davis's straits were extended to ships fitted out from Ireland.\* [15 Geo. III, c. 31.]

To lessen the importation of oil from foreigners, and also to guard against a deficiency of oil, an article so necessary in the woollen and other manufactures, by encouraging the manufacture of vegetable oils at home, it was enacted, that after the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 1775, whenever the price of British rape seed should exceed £17:10:0 per last, it might be imported from Ireland, on paying only one shilling per last, instead of the former prohibitory duty. [15 Geo. III, c. 34.]

These two acts were calculated to guard against any deficiency of fish or oil, that might proceed from the interruption of the New England fisheries. But the fishery at Newfoundland must have been defective this year by reason of the dreadful storm, wherein eleven ships, about a

\* Previous to the passing of this act the Irish had sent ships to Newfoundland, which the commanders indulged with a permission to fish, and entered them in their reports as British vessels. Being now relieved from the necessity of courting such a precarious indulgence, the Irish, liberally supported by their parliament, pushed on their Newfoundland fishery to a great extent.

Some of the merchants of Dartmouth and Poole, deputed from the whole body of merchants engaged in the Newfoundland trade, represented to a committee of the house of commons in the year 1793, that the regulations and restrictions of this act had

been found by experience to be of the most pernicious tendency; so much so, that in practice they have been generally disregarded, and never enforced, except from necessity; and that they would gladly throw up the bounties, if they might be relieved from the litigations, and other hardships, proceeding from this act. Indeed the bounty appears (from an account made up in the comptroller-general's office in the custom-house, signed by Mr. Powell 9<sup>th</sup> July 1784) to have been so little attended to, that only one instance occurred of its being paid in the course of nine years, which was only a payment of £40 at Exeter in the year 1778.



thousand boats, and a vast number of lives, were lost; and also by the absence of many vessels, which were obliged to leave the fishing grounds to return home in order to carry out provision for the others, they having most unaccountably forgotten, that they could not now have any supplies from America.

For the encouragement of the manufacture of red, green, and blue, leather, raw goats skins were allowed to be imported in British vessels free of any duty for five years, to be computed from the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 1775. [15 *Geo. III*, c. 35.]

In order to prevent the smuggling of painted earthen ware, made on the continent of Europe, all such ware, except galley tiles, was permitted to be imported on paying a duty of ten and a half per cent ad valorem. [15 *Geo. III*, c. 37.]

Along with the usual articles of expenditure voted by parliament for this year, we find an allowance of £2,145 to Murdoch Mackenzie for engraving his nautical surveys of the west coast of Britain, Ireland, and the Western islands; £3,711 : 15 : 0 to J. F. W. de Barres for engraving his surveys of the coast of Nova Scotia; £46,846 : 9 : 3 to the bank for the expense of receiving the deficient gold coin of the kingdom; and £22,824 : 19 : 0 for extraordinary charges incurred in the mint: also £5,000 for cleaning the channel and repairing the harbour at Barbados. There was likewise the sum of £880,000 voted for paying off one million of the three-per-cent funds. [15 *Geo. III*, c. 42.]

The obligation, laid upon the East-India company, to export the annual quantity of British goods, appointed by a former act, to their settlements in India, was prolonged from the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 1775 to the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 1778. [15 *Geo. III*, c. 44.]

The Irish were now allowed to clothe and accoutre that part of the army, which is paid by them, though serving out of Ireland, with the manufactures of Ireland as well as those of Great Britain, and to export such goods to the places where they serve. And for the encouragement of the linen-manufacture in Ireland, an additional bounty of 5/ per hogshead was allowed on flax-seed imported into Ireland during the years 1776 and 1777. [15 *Geo. III*, c. 45.]

The prosperous manufacturing town of Manchester being now sufficiently populous and opulent to support the expense of elegant and rational entertainments, a theatre was licenced there on the same footing as other theatres. [15 *Geo. III*, c. 47.] This circumstance, as an effect of the success of persevering industry is not unworthy of a place in commercial history.

The circulation of notes under twenty shillings, with certain conditions and restrictions, being found a great hardship upon the lower class of manufacturers, labourers, and others, it was ordered by parliament, that all such notes should be paid upon demand, notwithstanding any

conditions contained in them to the contrary, and that no more such should be issued \*. [15 *Geo. III, c. 51.*]

Mr. William Cookworthy of Plymouth having discovered a method of making an earthen ware from moor-stone, growan, and growan clay, (fossiles quite common in Devon-shire and Cornwall) possessing the beautiful colour, the smooth grain, and the quality of sustaining the action of the strongest fire without fusion, which are the distinguishing characteristics of the genuine porcelain of China, had got the king's patent, for fourteen years from the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 1768, for the sole making and vending of porcelain so manufactured. He having disposed of his patent to Mr. Champion, a merchant in Bristol, the term was now prolonged by parliament to the later for other fourteen years in order to encourage the manufacture. [15 *Geo. III, c. 52.*]

Mr. James Watt, a merchant in Glasgow, having discovered some very important improvements in applying steam as a moving power in machinery, had got the king's patent for fourteen years, not only for England, but also for all the colonies. But, finding the term of fourteen years scarcely sufficient to render his invention public, he applied to parliament for a prolongation of his exclusive privilege: and in consideration of the great utility of his invention in carrying on many great and expensive works, he obtained a renewal of his privilege for twenty-five years from the date of the act, and for all Great Britain and the colonies. [15 *Geo. III, c. 61.*]

The small harbour of Mevagissey on the south coast of Cornwall being very conveniently situated for the pilchard fishery, trustees were appointed to raise money, and build a pier for the protection of the vessels, and to levy a tunnage duty for defraying the expense. [15 *Geo. III, c. 62.*]

There were also, as usual, many acts for inland navigations, for the improvement of towns and roads, and for inclosures, &c.

May 21<sup>st</sup>—On the death of Sujah Dowlah, nabob of Oude, a new treaty was made with his son Azuf ul Dowlah, whereby the East-India company added the province of Benares, with a clear revenue of £240,000 a-year, to their territorial acquisitions.

June—About 700 emigrants, mostly Highlanders, sailed in four vessels from the Clyde for America, being the last considerable accession, in one embarkation, to the population of America. Soon after all emigration to America, now a hostile country, was prohibited by authority.

Captain Cook failed on a second voyage of discovery in July 1772, having under his command the *Resolution* and *Adventure*, two ships particularly well adapted for such a service, and accompanied by offi-

\* Sir George Saville, when he brought in this bill, observed, that there were notes circulating in York-shire from five shillings down to six pence, to the great injury of the industrious manufacturers, who were thereby totally deprived of the use of silver money.

cers, most of whom were astronomers and geographers as well as navigators, and also by Messieurs Wales and Bailey as professed astronomers, Messieurs Forster senior and junior as naturalists, and Mr. Hodges as landscape-painter. The object of this voyage was to determine the long contested question, whether the unexplored part of the southern hemisphere were only a vast expanse of water, or contained another continent, as speculative geographers had long supposed, from a presumed necessity of a balance of land in the northern and southern hemispheres.

Besides discovering and exploring many islands in the southern temperate zone, he made a complete circuit of the Southern ocean in two successive summers in those latitudes wherein the maps used to exhibit their *Terra australis*, or great southern continent: and three times he went within the Antarctic circle (once as far as the latitude of  $71^{\circ} 10'$ ) which no navigator ever entered before, and, we may venture to say, no one will ever enter again. Having thus ascertained, to the satisfaction of all mankind, that no land of any great extent can possibly exist in the southern polar regions, unless so near the pole as to be utterly useless and inaccessible, and also that the southern polar regions are much colder, and the seas in them more incumbered with ice, and that they are consequently less fit for the purposes of cultivation or navigation, than those of the corresponding northern latitudes, he arrived in England in July 1775.

While Captain Cook was employed in exploring the southern polar regions, Mr. de Kerguelen, a French navigator, was also engaged in a similar pursuit. In the beginning of the year 1772 he had found land, situated in  $49^{\circ}$  south latitude, and  $69^{\circ}$  east longitude from Greenwich, whence he returned, rather precipitately, to France, where he was received as a second Columbus, on the faith of having discovered the celebrated *Terra australis*, the existence of which was then almost universally believed. In the year 1773 he sailed again with two ships of war, carrying 64 and 32 guns and 700 men to complete his discovery, and to take possession of the great Southern continent for the crown of France. But alas! the mountain of high expectation scarcely brought forth a mouse. The object of this unwieldy armament turned out to be an island of no very great extent, and so miserably barren, that it produces not a tree or shrub of any kind, and very little grass. It has no human inhabitants, and scarcely any land animals: nor does the sea around it appear to be more productive than the land. Kerguelen could not in either of his voyages even find anchorage for his ships in any of the numerous harbours of his land of promise; and we are chiefly indebted for our knowledge of its condition to Captain Cook, who visited it in his third voyage in December 1776, and who says, that he should

called it the *Island of Desolation*, but that he would not rob Mr. de Kerguelen of the honour of giving his name to it \*.

August 23<sup>d</sup>—In consequence of the war broke out in America, the king in council prohibited gun-powder, arms, and ammunition, to be exported, or even to be carried along the coast, till the strictest inquiries were gone through, and ample security given for the true delivery of them according to the professed intention of the shippers †.

The prohibition immediately gave birth to a vast number of applications, especially from the merchants concerned in the African trade.

October 30<sup>th</sup>—The board of trade having observed, in consequence of a petition from Liverpool, 'that gun-powder, arms, and ammunition, are essential and commanding articles in the African trade,' and 'that both policy and justice require, that no restrictions should be put upon this trade, which are not essentially necessary for public safety,' proposed, 'that each ship clearing out for the coast of Africa for the purpose of carrying on the trade for slaves, ivory, and gold, may be allowed to take onboard, as an assorted part of her cargo, as much gun-powder, and as large a quantity of trading guns ‡, pistols, cutlasses, flints, and lead balls, bars, and shot, as the exporters shall think necessary, provided that security be given to the principal officers of the customs of the port in which she is fitted out, before the ship proceeds on her voyage, in treble the value of the articles so exported, that the same shall be expended in trade upon the coast.'

December 12<sup>th</sup>—The government of Grenada (or the Ceded islands) was again divided; and Valentine Morris Esq. was appointed the first governor of St. Vincents, now a separate government; Sir George Macartney being appointed governor of Grenada, and the Grenadines together with Tobago.

December 23<sup>d</sup>—An act of parliament was passed, whereby all intercourse with the revolted colonies, (comprehending the whole extent of the coast from New Hampshire to Georgia inclusive) was strictly prohibited; and all vessels, whether belonging to the revolted colonies or to neutral nations, found trading to the coasts of America, were declared lawful prizes to any ship of war or privateer which should seize them; excepting only vessels in the service of government, or vessels duely authorized to sail to such ports as were in the king's allegiance. [16 Geo. III, c. 5.]

'Whereas many advantages both to commerce and science may be

\* See *Cook's Third voyage*, cc. v, vi.—*Perouse's Voyage*, V. i, p. 259 of *English translation*, 1799.—I have not seen the accounts published by Kerguelen and his lieutenant De Pages.

† A precautionary proclamation of a similar na-

ture, to be in force for six months, had been issued 19<sup>th</sup> October 1774.

‡ These guns are stated in the petitions to cost from 5/6 to 7/6, and are said to be fit for no other trade.

\* expected from the discovery of any northern passage for vessels by sea 'between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans,' a reward of £20,000 was offered to the commander and seamen of any ship belonging to his Majesty, or to the owners and company of any merchant ship, which should discover such a passage to the northward of 52° of north latitude. A reward of £5,000 was also offered to the first ship which should reach the latitude of 89°, such a near approach to the pole being considered as a very great advance to the desired passage\*. [16 Geo. III, c. 6.]

As the great trade, which the merchants of Glasgow carried on with the tobacco colonies, was now to be interrupted, if not abolished, I here insert a short view of their imports of that article in the course of this year.

|                |           |                  |              |
|----------------|-----------|------------------|--------------|
| From Virginia, | Maryland, | North Carolina : | Total.       |
| 40,854         | 15,040    | 1,249            | 57,143 hhds. |

Their importations from Jamaica and the other sugar islands were  
 4,621 hhds, 691 tierces, and 462 barrels, of sugar,  
 1,154 puncheons, and 193 barrels, of rum,  
 and 503 bags of cotton.

The whole of these imports employed about 60,000 tuns of shipping.

The factors, whom the Glasgow merchants had established in America, by their prudent exertions, and the friendly terms on which they generally were with the planters, had been enabled to make large remittances to their constituents, before matters were brought to the last extremity. But very large sums still remained due, and as many of the merchants had the greatest part of their fortunes embarked in that trade, the event proved ruinous to some of them, and would have been more generally fatal, had not the great rise on the price of tobacco in some measure made amends for the deficiency of their remittances, and enabled most of them to bear up against the general shock.

Mr. Humphry Jackson brought to perfection a method of seasoning timber for ship-building, so as to make it resist putrefaction and admit no water within its pores, whereby ships may be rendered not only more durable, but also more wholesome to live in, and may carry a greater burthen by being more buoyant: and some ships of war, built of timber so prepared, were found to possess all these qualities. About this time also the method of laying the waves of the sea in a storm by the simple operation of pouring a little oil upon it, which had already been known to illiterate people in various parts of the world, began to attract the attention of philosophers, by whose writings it was made

\* This act was passed in contemplation of Captain Cook's third voyage of discovery, a brief account of which will be found in the transactions of the year 1780, when it was concluded. The

former act of 18 Geo. II, c. 17 allowed the reward only to private ships, and confined the search to Hudson's bay, where, it was now known, there was scarcely a possibility of finding a passage.

more generally known. Both these discoveries may be of great service in naval affairs.

The British minister at Hamburgh transmitted the following statement of the value of the British and French imports at that city and Bremen.

|   | Hamburgh.          | Bremen.          |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| From Great Britain, Ireland, and<br>the British West-Indies | £1,030,316 : 7 : 0 | £224,645 : 8 : 0 |
| From France - - -   | 1,270,627 : 14 : 0 | 237,524 : 10 : 0 |

Of 768 trading vessels, which arrived at Hamburgh this year, 262 were British; and of the whole there were 242 from British ports. It is worthy of remark, that of 32 vessels, which arrived from Shetland with herrings, there were 28 Danish, 2 Prussian, only 2 Dutch, and none British.

The following account of the quantity of British-plantation sugar imported into Great Britain, and of raw and refined sugar exported, during the under-mentioned years, is taken from an account made up by the inspector-general of the customs.

| Years. | Imported.  |     |     | Exported.  |     |     |                |     |     |
|--------|------------|-----|-----|------------|-----|-----|----------------|-----|-----|
|        | Raw sugar. |     |     | Raw sugar. |     |     | Refined sugar. |     |     |
|        | cwt.       | qr. | lb. | cwt.       | qr. | lb. | cwt.           | qr. | lb. |
| 1760   | 1,374,720  | 2   | 5   | 143,683    | 1   | 23  | 58,650         | 3   | 18  |
| 1761   | 1,491,317  | 3   | 16  | 303,324    | 0   | 13  | 108,891        | 1   | 7   |
| 1762   | 1,444,581  | 1   | 4   | 322,253    | 2   | 7   | 87,033         | 2   | 23  |
| 1763   | 1,732,174  | 1   | 5   | 413,199    | 3   | 22  | 102,514        | 3   | 19  |
| 1764   | 1,488,079  | 0   | 15  | 197,579    | 0   | 25  | 176,302        | 3   | 23  |
| 1765   | 1,227,159  | 3   | 18  | 149,125    | 1   | 5   | 114,851        | 2   | 0   |
| 1766   | 1,522,732  | 2   | 19  | 129,236    | 2   | 4   | 27,602         | 0   | 10  |
| 1767   | 1,538,834  | 1   | 8   | 209,533    | 1   | 25  | 35,968         | 1   | 12  |
| 1768   | 1,651,512  | 2   | 14  | 227,193    | 3   | 21  | 39,273         | 2   | 27  |
| 1769   | 1,525,070  | 0   | 5   | 216,384    | 0   | 0   | 34,041         | 2   | 16  |
| 1770   | 1,818,229  | 1   | 23  | 199,738    | 1   | 9   | 43,609         | 1   | 19  |
| 1771   | 1,492,096  | 2   | 24  | 193,859    | 1   | 1   | 55,210         | 0   | 13  |
| 1772   | 1,786,045  | 0   | 1   | 173,661    | 1   | 3   | 31,300         | 3   | 23  |
| 1773   | 1,762,387  | 3   | 15  | 186,649    | 3   | 19  | 29,543         | 3   | 26  |
| 1774   | 2,015,911  | 1   | 15  | 223,254    | 1   | 27  | 34,089         | 0   | 14  |
| 1775   | 2,002,224  | 3   | 8   | 345,012    | 2   | 0   | 69,790         | 3   | 20  |

Tobacco being an article of very considerable importance to the commerce, and also to the revenue, of Great Britain, and the principal article of the imports from America to this country, I have compiled, from several official returns of the custom-houses of England and Scotland, the following retrospect of the imports and exports of British-plantation tobacco, and also of the gross and net duties upon it received by government, from the beginning of the year 1761 to the interruption of the trade by the war.



| ENGLAND.             |                      |                  |                | SCOTLAND.            |                      |                  |                |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| imported,<br>pounds. | exported,<br>pounds. | gross duty,<br>£ | net duty,<br>£ | imported,<br>pounds. | exported,<br>pounds. | gross duty,<br>£ | net duty,<br>£ |
| 1761 47,065,787      | 36,788,044           | 1,225,672        | 267,626        | 24,048,380           | 23,525,326           | 699,741          | 15,219         |
| 1762 44,102,491      | 36,445,051           | 1,148,502        | 199,389        | 27,339,433           | 26,694,999           | 795,502          | 18,751         |
| 1763 63,173,752      | 40,940,312           | 1,697,232        | 631,079        | 31,613,170           | 30,613,738           | 919,719          | 28,944         |
| 1764 54,433,318      | 54,058,336           | 1,417,534        | 9,765          | 26,310,219           | 25,902,170           | 765,498          | 11,817         |
| 1765 48,306,593      | 39,121,423           | 1,257,984        | 239,197        | 33,889,565           | 33,379,201           | 986,092          | 14,850         |
| 1766 43,307,453      | 32,986,790           | 1,127,798        | 268,767        | 32,175,223           | 31,723,205           | 936,131          | 13,074         |
| 1767 39,140,639      | 36,400,398           | 1,019,287        | 71,360         | 29,385,343           | 28,871,522           | 854,893          | 14,812         |
| 1768 35,545,708      | 30,864,536           | 925,669          | 121,903        | 33,261,427           | 32,453,543           | 967,697          | 22,516         |
| 1769 33,784,208      | 23,793,272           | 879,797          | 260,181        | 35,920,685           | 34,714,630           | 1,044,062        | 34,863         |
| 1770 39,187,037      | 33,238,437           | 1,020,490        | 154,911        | 39,226,354           | 38,498,522           | 1,141,279        | 21,078         |
| 1771 58,079,183      | 41,439,386           | 1,512,479        | 433,328        | 49,312,146           | 48,488,681           | 1,434,846        | 23,961         |
| 1772 51,493,522      | 49,784,009           | 1,340,977        | 44,519         | 43,748,415           | 42,806,548           | 1,272,957        | 27,406         |
| 1773 55,928,957      | 50,349,967           | 1,456,983        | 145,786        | 44,485,194           | 43,595,102           | 1,294,396        | 25,899         |
| 1774 56,048,393      | 44,829,835           | 1,459,594        | 292,150        | 40,457,589           | 39,533,552           | 1,177,203        | 26,887         |
| 1775 55,965,463      | 43,880,863           | 1,457,434        |                | 55,927,542           |                      | 1,627,336        |                |

The quantities and value of the produce of the French West-India settlements imported into France this year, and the number of ships employed in the trade, which may be averaged at 300 tons burthen, as also the quantities and value of the same produce exported from France this year, were as follows \*.

| France imported from                                  |             |            |            |         | Value.          |       | France exported |            | Value. |       |
|---|-------------|------------|------------|---------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|------------|--------|-------|
|   | St. Domingo | Martinique | Guadaloupe | Cayenne | £.              | s. d. |                 |            | £.     | s. d. |
| Sugar, pounds - -                                     | 123,067,370 | 24,443,858 | 18,838,006 | 4,000   | 61,849,381      | 1 9   | 104,099,866     | 38,703,720 | 7 2    |       |
| Coffee, pounds - -                                    | 45,933,941  | 9,688,968  | 6,302,902  | 65,588  | 29,421,039      | 10 6  | 50,058,246      | 23,757,464 | 16 1   |       |
| Indigo, pounds - -                                    | 1,808,629   | 114,708    | 143,827    | 334     | 17,573,733      | 0 0   | 1,130,638       | 9,610,423  | 0 0    |       |
| Cacao, pounds - -                                     | 578,764     | 865,663    | 102,359    | 15,241  | 1,093,419       | 10 0  | 794,275         | 555,992    | 10 0   |       |
| Rocou or arnotto, pounds                              | 51,861      |            |            | 300,355 | 220,369         | 10 0  | 153,178         | 95,838     | 5 3    |       |
| Cotton, pounds - -                                    | 2,689,282   | 1,101,240  | 519,375    | 97,260  | 11,017,892      | 10 0  | 102,011         | 255,027    | 10 0   |       |
| Hides, number - -                                     | 14,124      | 919        | 727        | 353     | 180,078         | 0 0   | 568             | 5,112      | 0 0    |       |
| Turtle-shell, pounds -                                | 4,346       | 2,910      | 1,656      |         | 89,120          | 0 0   | 100             | 1,000      | 0 0    |       |
| Cassia fistula, pounds -                              | 9,019       | 196,635    | 1,262      |         | 55,752          | 9 0   | 120,759         | 32,604     | 18 8   |       |
| Woods, pounds - -                                     | 9,274,692   | 12,500     | 12,500     | 142,208 | 922,222         | 7 5   | 4,180,820       | 408,355    | 2 9    |       |
| Small articles - -                                    |             |            |            |         | 1,352,148       | 0 0   |                 |            |        |       |
| Silver coin - -                                       |             |            |            |         | 2,600,000       | 0 0   |                 |            |        |       |
| Total value - -                                       |             |            |            |         | 126,375,155     | 18 8  |                 | 73,425,538 | 9 11   |       |
| Ships employed in carrying the produce of each colony | 353         | 122        | 81         | 6       | total ships 562 |       |                 |            |        |       |

\* This account is taken from the Table at the end of Raynal's seventh volume. He exchanges £22 : 10 : 0 French money for £1 sterling; and thence the total amount of the imports is £5,616,672 : 16 : 4½, and of the exports £3,263,356 : 12 : 10½ sterling.

Besides these exports to the mother country, a considerable quantity of their produce, including, perhaps, the whole of their melasses, was carried openly, or clandestinely, to the British colonies in North America, in return for which the French colonists received provisions, lumber, and money. This trade was wholly carried on in American vessels.

There belonged this year to all the ports of

|                 |       |                                   |           |         |
|-----------------|-------|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| England         | 7,549 | vessels of the reputed burthen of | 605,974   | tuns,   |
| and of Scotland | 1,559 | - - - - -                         | 91,330    |         |
| Total           | -     | 9,108                             | - - - - - | 697,304 |

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain from and to foreign countries, including repeated voyages,

|           | British. |         | Foreign. |         | Total.   |           |
|-----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|-----------|
|           | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.     |
| Inward -  | 9,247    | 943,271 | 1,248    | 135,491 | 10,495   | 1,078,762 |
| Outward - | 9,719    | 888,854 | 618      | 67,752  | 10,337   | 956,606   |

The net amount of the customs, including the West-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the course of this year, was from the custom-house in London, - £2,481,031 : 5 : 7

The Scottish revenue of the customs was still so much exhausted in paying fishery bounties, drawbacks, &c. as to leave no balance to be remitted to the exchequer.

There were coined at the mint in the course of the year  
104,895 pounds of gold, value - - - £4,901,218 : 17 : 6  
and no silver.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Christmas 1774 to Christmas 1775 was as follows.

| Countries, &c.            | Imported into    |               | Exported from    |               |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
|                           | ENGLAND.         | SCOTLAND.     | ENGLAND.         | SCOTLAND.     |
| Africa - - -              | £67,328 6 3      |               | £786,168 2 8     |               |
| Canaries - - -            | 8,676 2 7        |               | 39,045 8 6       |               |
| Denmark and Norway        | 122,967 1 10     | £36,036 7 6   | 220,838 14 5     | £14,295 14 4  |
| East country - - -        | 381,838 15 2     |               | 73,254 16 9      |               |
| East-India - - -          | 1,091,845 18 4   |               | 1,040,642 2 2    |               |
| Flanders - - -            | 103,991 13 8     |               | 973,353 13 4     |               |
| France - - -              | 67,481 15 5      | 3,638 5 7     | 258,157 11 7     | 246,297 2 9   |
| Germany - - -             | 660,763 4 5      | 22,864 15 4   | 1,545,014 5 11   | 67,852 14 0   |
| Greenland - - -           | 22,224 15 8      | 2,834 0 9     | 11 5 9           |               |
| Holland - - -             | 513,561 16 6     | 131,414 13 5  | 1,887,400 11 6   | 320,944 2 9   |
| Ireland - - -             | 1,486,325 3 6    | 137,694 14 1  | 2,169,608 18 3   | 283,063 8 5   |
| Mann - - -                | 10,316 15 11     | 101 17 9      | 21,043 9 9       | 16 16 0       |
| Italy - - -               | 818,171 7 11     | 22,948 0 0    | 1,003,528 4 7    | 4,539 1 0     |
| Madeira - - -             | 2,221 11 11      |               | 22,064 7 5       |               |
| Poland - - -              |                  | 6,022 10 8    |                  | 1,758 18 2    |
| Portugal - - -            | 367,093 4 1      | 16,811 0 2    | 632,989 4 8      | 1,142 11 4    |
| Prussia - - -             |                  | 15,540 16 3   |                  | 127 18 6      |
| Russia - - -              | 1,016,280 10 8   | 136,337 4 8   | 213,121 19 5     | 3,678 13 8    |
| Spain - - -               | 564,356 6 0      | 12,893 11 9   | 1,205,215 2 9    | 46,274 6 1    |
| Gibraltar - - -           |                  | 43 18 1       |                  | 5,338 8 11    |
| Straits - - -             | 4,723 6 5        |               | 33,578 6 11      |               |
| Sweden - - -              | 237,041 17 11    | 41,962 15 9   | 110,001 4 8      | 3,698 8 2     |
| Teneriffe - - -           |                  | 82 17 0       |                  |               |
| Turkey - - -              | 168,882 12 9     |               | 226,997 1 4      |               |
| Venice - - -              | 88,412 12 10     |               | 79,118 8 2       |               |
| Guernsey, &c. - -         | 34,837 17 7      | 779 6 9       | 63,489 12 9      | 112 10 0      |
| America in general -      |                  | 540,860 6 5   |                  | 41,637 4 5    |
| Hudson's bay - - -        | 7,412 0 0        |               | 5,653 17 6       |               |
| Newfoundland - - -        | 50,331 16 2      |               | 123,067 4 5      |               |
| Quebec - - -              | 74,212 14 9      |               | 472,368 4 8      |               |
| Nova-Scotia - - -         | 2,622 11 5       |               | 56,306 7 0       |               |
| New-England - - -         | 116,588 1 4      |               | 71,625 4 0       |               |
| New-York - - -            | 187,018 4 5      |               | 1,228 2 6        |               |
| Pennsylvania - - -        | 175,962 17 1     |               | 1,366 8 0        |               |
| Maryland and Virginia     | 758,356 11 9     |               | 1,921 11 5       |               |
| Carolina - - -            | 579,549 13 6     |               | 6,245 9 6        |               |
| Georgia - - -             | 103,477 1 3      |               | 113,777 15 10    |               |
| Florida - - -             | 21,504 19 6      |               | 85,354 7 10      |               |
| West-Indies in general    |                  | 156,520 18 4  |                  | 83,220 2 0    |
| Anguilla - - -            | 1,797 1 1        |               |                  |               |
| Antigua - - -             | 353,503 4 0      |               | 168,092 1 9      |               |
| Barbados - - -            | 112,971 12 3     |               | 138,384 15 9     |               |
| Bermuda - - -             | 0 13 4           |               | 13,405 18 4      |               |
| Dominica - - -            | 185,131 12 5     |               | 62,915 2 10      |               |
| Grenada - - -             | 486,035 15 4     |               | 139,946 0 5      |               |
| Jamaica - - -             | 1,653,735 15 5   |               | 786,728 10 5     |               |
| Montserrat - - -          | 56,815 12 6      |               | 24,323 7 6       |               |
| Nevis - - -               | 71,463 19 9      |               | 17,014 9 7       |               |
| New-Providence - -        | 2,962 4 10       |               | 14,799 16 8      |               |
| St. Croix - - -           | 4,637 0 10       |               | 67 4 0           |               |
| St. Christophers - -      | 282,019 14 6     |               | 125,264 9 6      |               |
| St. Thomas - - -          | 1,346 10 5       |               | 1,218 3 10       |               |
| St. Vincents - - -        | 164,199 11 6     |               | 69,246 14 11     |               |
| Tobago - - -              | 75,984 6 0       |               | 39,332 10 7      |               |
| Tortola - - -             | 64,526 7 10      |               | 34,524 14 0      |               |
| Honduras bay - - -        | 43,180 6 4       |               | 3,639 4 9        |               |
| Musquito shore - -        | 7,849 18 6       |               | 13,639 6 3       |               |
| Falkland's islands -      |                  |               | 6,335 17 0       |               |
| Imp. and exp. of England  | 13,548,467 10 11 |               | 15,202,365 13 10 |               |
| Imp. and exp. of Scotland | 1,267,388 6 3    | 1,267,388 6 3 | 1,123,998 0 6    | 1,123,998 0 6 |
| Total, Great Britain -    | 14,815,855 17 2  |               | 16,326,363 14 4  |               |

1776—About the beginning of the year 1776 a worthy citizen of London, who had unfortunately failed in business some years before, and had now, by the blessing of God upon his honest industry, again got above the world, called a meeting of his creditors, and honourably paid them every shilling he owed them. The name of this honest man, though unknown to me, deserves to be enrolled in the temple of Virtuous Fame, along with that of Sir Stephen Theodore Janssen, whose conduct I have already gratified my feelings by making honourable mention of in the transactions of the year 1765.

The 20<sup>th</sup> of January was the day appointed by the congress of America, if the obnoxious acts of the British parliament should not then be repealed, for discharging all the officers of the customs acting under authority derived from the British government, and for opening all their ports to the ships of all nations, who should be desirous of trading with them, for the reception of all merchandize, except teas and the produce and manufacture of Great Britain, Ireland, and the British West Indies\*. And, in order to encourage foreigners to resort to their ports, they declared, that, in case of a reconciliation with Great Britain, they should, notwithstanding, remain open to them for two years after it.

March 3—The island of New Providence was taken by an American squadron, consisting of two frigates and five small vessels from Philadelphia, commanded by Commodore Hopkins, who immediately quit- ted the place without leaving any garrison to keep possession, and carried off the governor with him.

At a court of proprietors of East-India stock it appeared, that the loan of £1,400,000, granted by government to the company, was now reduced to the sum of £420,000; and that the affairs of the company were in general in a prosperous condition.

Very different was the situation of the Dutch East-India company. Their charter had expired in the year 1773, and the States-general had then given them a short renewal of three years, in order to have time to investigate the justice of the plea set up by the company for a diminution of the sum they used to pay for a renewal, on account of the declining state of their trade. Having found upon an investigation, that the company had actually sustained very great losses, whereby their circumstances and their trade were greatly reduced, the States-general granted them a new charter for thirty years, on paying two millions of florins (instead of three millions paid for the former charter) and a yearly payment of 360,000 florins, which they were indulged with the liberty of making either in money or goods. Immediately after the renewal of their charter the price of their stock rose nineteen per cent.

\* We shall have occasion to see, that these exceptions were not very strictly adhered to.

March 25<sup>th</sup>—The permission to import cattle and salted provisions from Ireland free of duty, which had hitherto been allowed by temporary acts, was now made perpetual. But America, having become a hostile, if not a foreign, country, was now totally excluded from the trade. [16 *Geo. III, c. 8.*]

The free importation of tallow, hog's lard, and grease, was prolonged till the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1779. [16 *Geo. III, c. 12.*]

To accommodate the inland trade in iron, lime, potter's clay, and coals, at Coalbrooke dale, which was frequently obstructed by the insufficiency of the ferry on the Severn at that place, trustees were appointed and empowered to build a bridge over the river of cast iron or any other material, and to take tolls upon it; no ferry-boats being permitted to ply within 500 yards of the bridge, unless it shall happen to be in a dangerous condition. [16 *Geo. III, c. 17.*] This bridge of cast iron, which was the first of the kind ever executed, has since been followed by several others.

Considerable improvements in the construction of engines for making blocks, sheeves, and pins, for ships, in iron, brass, and wood, having been invented by Walter Taylor blockmaker in Portsmouth, he obtained the king's patent for fourteen years, as usual: and several improvements having been made after his death by his son, a further term of fourteen years was granted to him by parliament, to be computed from the expiration of his father's patent. [16 *Geo. III, c. 18.*]

April 2<sup>d</sup>—It was now difficult to find seamen in sufficient numbers for the services of war and commerce; and therefor merchant vessels were allowed to carry foreign seamen for three fourths of their complement. [16 *Geo. III, c. 20.*]

The corporation of Boston in Lincoln-shire, and a number of commissioners associated with them, were empowered to improve the harbour and town of Boston, and to regulate the pilots. [16 *Geo. III, c. 23.*]

May—The society of merchant venturers of Bristol were empowered to enlarge the floating dock, formerly made by them, and to build a new quay and proper warehouses for storing goods. Regulations were also made to prevent combustible articles lying too long on the quay, and for other matters of harbour police. [16 *Geo. III, c. 33.*]

Additional taxes were laid on wheel carriages (except hackney coaches) indentures, bonds, newspapers, parchment, playing cards, and dice. And two millions were borrowed on the terms of £77:10:0 in the three-per-cent funds, and three lottery tickets, for every £100 paid by the subscribers. In this year's lottery the old plan was revived, whereby the government retained the whole price of the tickets, and paid an annuity on the amount of the prizes at the rate of three per cent; so that a prize of £10,000 was an income of £300 a-year, or

worth whatever that income in the funds would sell for. [16 *Geo. III*, c. 34.]

The regulations for conducting the fishery for pilchards in the Bay of St. Ives, on the coast of Cornwall, were sanctioned by parliament. [16 *Geo. III*, c. 36.]

The fisheries on the Banks of Newfoundland and in the Gulf of St. Laurence, having felt their share of the hardships which the American war had brought upon all the islands belonging to the British empire in the Atlantic ocean, the permission to export provisions, contained in the act 14 *Geo. III*, c. 5 which was almost confined to the sugar islands, was now extended to St. Helena and the other settlements belonging to the East-India company, and for biscuit and peas to Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Labrador. The exportation was permitted till the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1777, and was restricted to the following ports and quantities.

|                        | For the sugar islands.  | For the fisheries of Newfoundland, &c. |                 |
|------------------------|---|--|-----------------|
|                        |   | Biscuit.                               | Peas.           |
| London - - -           | Wheat, wheat-flour, bread, biscuit, & meal.<br>50,000 quarters. | 850 tuns.                              | 1,200 quarters. |
| Bristol - - -          | 20,000  | 650                                    | 850             |
| Liverpool - - -        | 20,000  | 150                                    | 130             |
| Glasgow - - -          | 10,000  |  |                 |
| Poole - - -            | - -   | 600                                    | 600             |
| Dartmouth - - -        | - -   | 800                                    | 800             |
| Topsham and Teignmouth | - -   | 1,000                                  | 1,200           |
| Weymouth - - -         | - -   | 60                                     | 120             |
| Chester - - -          | - -   | 120                                    | 120             |

And the supplies, allowed for the East-India company's settlements, were not to exceed 10,000 quarters of wheat, meal, rye, &c. [16 *Geo. III*, c. 37.]

The act [14 *Geo. III*, c. 77] for the discharge of insolvent debtors was renewed with some additional clauses. [16 *Geo. III*, c. 38.]

A bounty of 5*s* per hoghead was allowed on flax-seed from the United provinces or Austrian Netherlands, imported into Ireland, for two years, to be reckoned from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1776. [16 *Geo. III*, c. 41.] This article had for many years been imported from Philadelphia to the amount of about 300,000 bushels annually. Since the American war the Irish have fallen into the practice of saving their own seed, which they find answer very well.

The punishment of transportation to America was changed to that of hard labour in raising sand, foil, and gravel, from the shoals in the River Thames, for sturdy convicts; and to labour in confinement for female convicts, and for such males as are incapable of hard labour. [16 *Geo. III*, c. 43.]



It being found that a profitable whale fishery may be carried on in seas south of 44 degrees north latitude, premiums from £100 to £500, to continue for eleven years, were offered by parliament to the five ships, owned, and carrying men and apprentices, agreeable to the regulations enacted for the Greenland ships, fitted out after the 1<sup>st</sup> of August \*, and returning to port before the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, which should bring home the five largest quantities of oil, each being the produce of at least one whale caught by them. [16 Geo. III, c. 47.]

Trustees were appointed to erect a light-house, and to place land-marks and buoys for the harbour of Chester, and to regulate the pilots, &c. [16 Geo. III, c. 61.]

Several acts for inland navigations, improvements of towns, &c. were also passed in the course of this session.

✓ About the beginning of this year Messieurs Blair and Irving had lately begun to express oil for the use of the woollen manufactures from vegetables produced on the Musquito shore, in which country a form of government subordinate to that of Jamaica had been established. But their business was broken up on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April by a piratical seizure of a vessel belonging to them, as she lay at anchor in the road of Black river, by two Spanish guarda-costas, who carried her to Porto-bello. ✓

During the session of parliament the old established merchants in the American trade made loud complaints, that the suppression of commercial intercourse with America was in a great measure illusive, and that the trade was only changed into a monopoly in the hands of a set of obscure pretended merchants, who, by an abuse of the licences granted for carrying out necessary stores and provisions for the army, and by clearing out their vessels for Boston, Halifax, or Quebec, *with liberty to go to any other port in America*, sent out large cargoes of all kinds of merchandize, and managed their business with great security under the shelter of that very prohibitory act, which they were so grossly violating. The business was brought under the consideration of parliament; but from the public attention being taken up with the duchess of Kingston's trial, or from some other cause, the inquiry miscarried †.

Hitherto the American war, which, according to the predictions of some politicians, was to bring with it the utter ruin of the commerce of Great Britain, was not found to be so very distressful to commerce,

\* By that time the Greenland ships are generally returned into port.

† While this affair was under investigation, it appeared, that one of those nominal merchants, who loaded no less than five large ships with valuable cargoes, had carried about a letter from a person, who filled a very considerable office in the service of government, in order to obtain credit for goods in the city, where he was utterly unknown.

Thus this worthy gentleman behind the curtain, who was the real exporter, (for the nominal merchant was only his tool) not content with enjoying a great income out of the revenue drawn from the commerce of the country, wanted to engross and drain the very fountains, whence his emoluments flowed, and whence he had derived the capital he was now making so bad a use of.

as even moderate men apprehended it would have been: and there were many circumstances, which greatly alleviated the calamities, inseparable from a state of hostility. Among the first of these may be reckoned the integrity wherewith many of the merchants in America discharged their obligations to their correspondents here, before the total interruption of friendly intercourse took place; and the advanced prices, which American produce sold for on the prospect of an approaching scarcity. The war itself, if it turned many ships, formerly engaged in the American trade, out of employ, found employment for perhaps fully as many in transporting the forces across the Atlantic, with all their necessary stores, including horses, live cattle, sheep, and hogs, and even hay for their support after being landed in America, fuel for the fires, and, in short, every minute article of necessary expenditure\*; so that the vessels and seamen were still employed, though not, as formerly, in advancing the commercial prosperity of the nation. Another branch of trade also took its rise in some degree from this war. The American whale-fishers, when they found the whales scarce in their own seas, used to stretch over to the coast of Ireland, and often as far as Africa, Brasil, and even the remote Falkland's islands, in pursuit of the spermaceti whales, the most valuable of the cetaceous tribes. That fishery being given up in consequence of the war, many of the harpooneers were induced to enter into the service of British merchants, who fitted out vessels for the Newfoundland and Southern whale fisheries. For the later, which was quite a new business in this country, there were equipped fifteen vessels of about 170 tuns, and each carrying four American harpooneers; and though their acquisitions were only about forty or fifty tuns of oil for each vessel, yet the superior quality, and the price of it advanced by the war from £35 to £70 per tun, were sufficient to encourage the merchants to persevere in the business†. To all these we may add an increased demand for goods in Russia and Turkey in consequence of the recent peace between those empires, and also in Poland in consequence of the pacification after the partition of that country. Even the warlike preparations of Spain at this time against Algier made some extraordinary demand for British goods. Neither was the American trade totally lost. It was only diverted from the direct, into circuitous, channels, by which British goods still found their way into the territory of the United States. For the invitation given by the Americans to all the world to resort to their ports had no very great effect upon any of the nations of Europe, except the French, who, in the hopes of reaping golden harvests from the spoils of British commerce, fitted

\* Hay, oats, and beans, for a single regiment of cavalry, shut up in Boston, are said to have cost about £22,000. Vegetables and vinegar, with casks to pack them in, amounted to an equal sum.

† We shall hereafter have occasion to see, that the Southern whale fishery has become an object of considerable magnitude and importance as a nursery for seamen.

out some hundreds of vessels for America : but such was the vigilance of the British naval commanders, that, according to a French author, scarcely thirty of the whole of them returned to France, and these made but very unprofitable voyages for their owners. [*Raynal V. ix, p. 211.*] The trade carried on by the Americans, in their own vessels, and entirely at their own risk, with the French, Dutch, and Danish islands in the West-Indies, was more considerable and had also a longer continuance. The traders of these islands, however, soon found, that the articles of the fabric of their own mother countries, wherewith they hoped to supplant the British manufactures, were not so acceptable in America ; and that, notwithstanding the interdiction of British goods by the congress, they must be provided with British goods, if they expected to have American buyers \*. These islands were therefor soon filled with British manufactures, which were exchanged for American provisions, lumber, tobacco, and other produce, to the great emolument of the dealers on both sides ; but with a very great additional expense to the American consumer. And thus the British manufacturers of goods for the American trade were as fully employed as before ; and only the freights were lost, which was the less felt, as such prodigious numbers of merchant ships were immediately taken up in the service of government as armed ships and transports, and the swift-sailing vessels were soon afterwards converted into privateers.

On the first of May the regulation took place, which is still in force, for limiting the smallest weight, at which guineas should pass current, to five pennyweights eight grains. But guineas coined prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 1772 were to be received in payments to the revenue till the 19<sup>th</sup> of August 1776, though two grains lighter.

\* The following extract from Lord Sheffield's *Observations on the commerce of the American states* [p. 10 of 2<sup>d</sup> ed.] contains such proofs of what I have now advanced, that I think it proper to give it here, though a little anticipated in regard to chronology, in his lordship's own words.

‘ The following fact is a striking proof of the superiority of our woollens to the French in the opinion of the Americans. When France granted a sum of money to congress for cloathing the American troops, Mr. Laurens junior was employed to provide it ; but, instead of laying out the money in France, he went to Holland, and bought English cloths, and sent them to America. The French minister was instructed to complain to congress of this transaction, so ungrateful and injurious to France ; but Mr. Laurens justified himself by saying, it was his duty to do the best he could with the money, and that the English cloths, of equal price with the French, were much better. And farther to shew the preference given to British manufactures in the American states, we need only recollect, that the importation of goods from this country, through a

variety of channels, was so great during the war, that the French minister residing at Philadelphia remonstrated against it more than once, before the least attention was paid to him by congress. An act was then made, prohibiting the manufactures of this country under certain penalties ; nevertheless, they continued to be imported to so great a degree, that a remonstrance from the court of France was presented to congress, threatening to withdraw their aid, if more effectual means were not taken to prevent the importation of British goods, which, being accompanied with strong recommendations from Doctor Franklin and the other commissioners in France, produced some effect. Some seizures of British manufactures were made, though imported through Holland. This severity took place a little more than a year before the peace. In some instances the goods seized were returned to the owners. Prior to this the shopkeepers, &c. used to advertise as English goods, what, in fact, were Dutch or French manufactures, in order to recommend them to the purchaser.’

The governor and legislature of Bermuda, greatly alarmed at the power exercised in the Turk's islands by the governor and legislature of the Bahamas, sent home a memorial, wherein they stated, that those islands, originally discovered by their ancestors, had been occupied by them for above a century without any interruption, except from hostile powers; and that in the reign of Queen Anne the Spaniards, after taking possession of them, had been driven off by the Bermudians. They represented, that, since they had given up the culture of tobacco, which could be more profitably raised on the continent, they had no other method of employing their people than in raking salt on Turk's islands, and that of 800 people, now residing there for that purpose, 750 were Bermudians. That the pretensions of Bahama to the superiority of Turk's islands were quite new, and the interference of any other legislature than their own in a business hitherto carried on solely by themselves must be ruinous to them and their families, and detrimental to the northern fisheries and the general commerce of the British empire.

July 4<sup>th</sup>—The congress of America, laying aside all thoughts of a reconciliation with the British government, issued a proclamation on the fourth day of July, whereby they declared THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA *free and independent*, with 'full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things, which independent states may of right do.' This day forms a new æra in America; and from it the dates of all public papers are dated in such a year of their independence, as kings date theirs by the years of their reigns.

July—The people employed by the manufacturers in the neighbourhood of Shepton-Mallet in Somersetshire, being offended at the erection of some machinery in that town for the abridgement of labour in the woollen manufacture, assembled in a riotous manner, and destroyed the obnoxious machinery, before they could be dispersed by the military.

All enlightened writers on the subject of commercial and political economy agree in the great advantage of the abridgement of labour, even to the very people, who feel some inconvenience on the first introduction of it, and have not sufficient sagacity to see that the extension of the manufacture must soon find increased, and more profitable, employment for them all. It is machinery that produces the great works of civilized nations with less manual labour than savage nations bestow upon procuring a scanty subsistence, which scarcely keeps them alive. It is machinery that enables the British manufacturer to give higher wages to his workmen than those of other nations do, while he furnishes his goods so much cheaper, and also better (for machinery works with uniform regularity) that they obtain a decided preference in every

country on the face of the earth, and render the commerce of Great Britain the commerce of the world\*.

It may be supposed to afford a sufficient proof of the prosperous state of Scotland, that money was now so plentiful in that country, that above half a million was about this time lent out at an interest of *three per cent*, and more was ready to be laid out on good security. As a further mark of the prosperity of Scotland, some shares of the Royal bank stock were sold at £215, the highest price ever given before having been £201. But it may be doubted, whether the depression of the rate of interest, and advance in the price of bank stock, were not, at least partly, occasioned by great sums of money, which used to give life to a vigorous trade with America, being now for a time thrown out of employment, and, during the stagnation, thrown into the hands of the banks and bankers at *three per cent*, which they used to allow for money payable on demand†.

August 1<sup>st</sup>—A light-house was erected on the Smalls, a dangerous parcel of rocks in the Irish channel, with a light so well contrived as to be clearly distinguished at the distance of nine leagues.

August—It being discovered that the Mediterranean passes, by which British vessels are exempted from the depredations of the piratical cruizers of the states of Barbary, were frequently forged, they were all called in by proclamation, that new ones of a different form might be issued from the admiralty office, in order to remove any jealousy, which the Moors might conceive, of the property of their enemies being protected by the British flag; and probably to prevent the Americans from benefiting by those in their possession.

October 26<sup>th</sup>—Mr. Stuart, superintendant of Indian affairs in the southern district of America, complained, that the traders, who went among the Indians, carried chiefly rum, and scarcely any useful goods, in consequence of which the Indians were naked, discontented, and wretched. Of 30,000 gallons of rum lately imported at Pensacola, not one gallon was to be found in the stores in three months.

The Emperor of Germany made a new attempt to establish a trade with the East-Indies, whereof Ostend was to be the port, which about

\* Much has also been said, and written, by well-meaning people against the use of machinery, which, they say, by enabling one man, or boy, or girl, to do the work of twenty, throws nineteen out of employment. In answer to this, it must be acknowledged, that all human institutions are liable to inconveniencies: but the workmen generally do find employment, if willing, during the time of the hardship consequent upon the first introduction of a new piece of machinery; and soon after, sometimes immediately, they feel the great benefit of an increased demand. The same objection is equally good

against water mills and wind mills for grinding corn instead of hand mills, and against the use of the plough in agriculture, because digging the ground with spades, would require more hands, as is well observed by Sir Frederic Morton Eden: and the same objections have repeatedly been made against canals. But canals and machinery will notwithstanding continue to be encouraged by all wise governments, especially in commercial nations.

† After this time, many of the merchants of Glasgow threw their capitals into manufactures: but it requires time to effect the change.



the same time was improved by the addition of a magnificent wet dock or basin. He also commissioned Mr. Bolts, who had been in India in the service of the English East-India company, to make commercial and colonial settlements in Asia or Africa. Mr. Bolts, in conjunction with some merchants of Flanders, fitted out a large ship at Leghorn, well armed, and loaded with a valuable cargo, and also carrying a body of people sufficient to establish a small settlement. At Delagoa bay on the east side of Africa he fixed his residence on a piece of ground purchased from the chiefs of the country. The principal article of trade in the place is ivory; but sugar-canes, cotton, rice, and all the tropical productions grow luxuriantly. From this port he carried on a prosperous trade with India and the adjacent countries for about three years: and then the Portuguese, who pretend to an exclusive right to the eastern coast of Africa, found means to undermine Bolts's interest at the Imperial court; the consequence of which was, that the colony and the trade were given up to their mercy, and an armament, dispatched from Goa, the principal Portuguese settlement in India, destroyed their buildings, and carried off their shipping and property of every kind.

November 1<sup>st</sup>—The expenses of the lord-mayors of London for many years past had greatly exceeded the income attached to the office; so that the gentlemen, who had supported the dignity of the mayoralty, had been from two, to near four, thousand pounds out of pocket in the course of the year. It was therefor resolved, that some casual emoluments, which used to be paid to the lord-mayor, should henceforth be paid into the chamber of London, and that one thousand pounds a-year should be added to the fixed salary.

The fatal effects of American hostilities were earliest and most severely felt by the West-India colonies and those concerned with them. The islands were greatly distressed by the failure of the accustomed supplies of American provisions, and of lumber, almost as essential to them as provisions. The insurance on homeward-bound West-India ships rose to the enormous rate of *twenty-three per cent*. Nor were the underwriters at all benefited by those high premiums, for the losses greatly exceeded the proportion on which the premiums were calculated. A fleet of about 120 sail of ships was loaded and ready to sail from Jamaica in July, when, on account of some discontents among the negroes, they were detained by the governor for about a month. The Americans were thereby apprized of the delay, and with extraordinary dispatch fitted out a vast number of privateers, which took a great number of them. Many ships from the other islands also fell into their hands. And the whole value of ships and cargoes, taken by the Americans this year, was estimated to be considerably above a million of money, exclusive of transports and store-ships in the service of government. On the other hand the British



cruisers made prizes of great numbers of small American vessels bound to the foreign West-India islands with cargoes of provisions and lumber, which, though of trifling value, being carried into our islands, afforded them a seasonable relief, though by no means adequate to their wants.

The following retrospect of the Scottish herring fishery from the commencement of the bounties shows the slow progress it made during several years, its rise to some degree of importance, the rapid decline of it in consequence of the protracted and irregular payment of the bounty, and the good effect of the regular payment, which afterwards took place, at a reduced rate of bounty.

| Years. | Vessels.                                       | Tonnage.        | Men and boys.  | Barrels of herrings taken. | Bounty.                 | £.     | s. | d. |
|--------|--|-----------------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------|----|----|
| 1751   | 2  | 148             | 33             | 213                        | Bounty at 30s. per tun. |        |    |    |
| 1752   | 4  | 301             | 67             | 424                        |                         |        |    |    |
| 1753   | 8  | 518             | 116            | 519                        |                         |        |    |    |
| 1754   | 6  | 403             | 89             | 564                        |                         |        |    |    |
| 1755   | 1  | 77              | 17             | 67                         |                         |        |    |    |
| 1756   | 1  | 77              | 17             | 64                         |                         |        |    |    |
| 1757   | 2  | 103             | 24             | 317                        |                         |        |    |    |
| 1758   | 3  | 181             | 41             | 245                        |                         |        |    |    |
| 1759   | 3  | 181             | 41             | 4                          |                         |        |    |    |
| 1760   | 13   | 554             | 130            | 3,089                      | Bounty 50s. per tun.    |        |    |    |
| 1761   | 17   | 745             | 174            | 4,046                      |                         |        |    |    |
| 1762   | 49   | 2,061           | 489            | 12,949½                    |                         | 5,140  | 10 | 0  |
| 1763   | 87   | 3,691           | 863            | 3,054½                     |                         | 9,228  | 17 | 0  |
| 1764   | 119  | 5,131           | 1,206          | 8,531                      |                         | 12,828 | 0  | 8  |
| 1765   | 137  | 7,056           | 1,631          | 39,691                     |                         | 17,642 | 5  | 0  |
| 1766   | 261  | 12,476          | 2,831          | 21,146                     |                         | 31,190 | 15 | 0  |
| 1767   | 266  | 12,633          | 2,918          | 28,328                     | irregular by paid.      | 31,584 | 10 | 0  |
| 1768   | 207  | 9,692           | 2,241          | 15,629                     |                         | 24,232 | 2  | 6  |
| 1769   | 87   | 3,969           | 924            | 18,289                     |                         | 9,924  | 7  | 6  |
| 1770   | 19   | 861             | 201            | 1,878                      |                         | 2,154  | 15 | 10 |
| 1771   | 29 { summer fishing - 4<br>winter fishing - 25 | 210<br>1,039    | 47<br>236      | 385<br>2,447               |                         | 2,018  | 10 | 10 |
| 1772   | 169 { summer - 95<br>winter - 74               | 4,029<br>3,373  | 948<br>789     | 8,459<br>13,759            | Bounty 30s. per tun.    | 10,876 | 17 | 6  |
| 1773   | 190 { summer - 86<br>winter - 104              | 3,621<br>4,718  | 859<br>1,094   | 17,197<br>24,858           |                         | 12,510 | 12 | 6  |
| 1774   | 249 { summer - 115<br>winter - 134             | 4,913<br>6,436  | 1,150<br>1,584 | 25,134<br>31,459           |                         | 17,025 | 5  | 0  |
| 1775   | 281 { summer - 101<br>winter - 180             | 4,277<br>8,795  | 1,003<br>2,028 | 13,396<br>40,070           |                         | 19,609 | 15 | 0  |
| 1776   | 294 { summer - 68<br>winter - 226              | 2,859<br>11,334 | 670<br>2,695   | 7,748<br>44,115            |                         | 21,290 | 7  | 6  |

After this year the fishery again declined as long as the war continued.

The East-India company obtained by treaty a confirmation of the property of the island of Salfette, which their forces had taken possession of in the year 1773. It is a fertile island, about 15 miles in length and nearly as much in breadth, separated by a very narrow channel from the island on which Bombay stands: and, as that settlement had no territory beyond the limits of its own small island, and consequently de-

pendent entirely on other places for its subsistence, it was a very convenient acquisition.

This year Captain Forrest, an enterprising navigator in the service of the East-India company, who had formerly explored the coasts of New Guinea and many others of the remote Oriental islands, established a plantation of nutmeg trees in Bunwoot, a small island near the capital of Magindano, which the king of that great island bestowed upon the company. The plants were brought by him from Manaswary, an island near the coast of New Guinea, and the chief difference between the fruit and the nutmegs monopolized by the Dutch, is that it is of a longer shape.

September 22<sup>d</sup>—The *caisse d'escompte* (office, or bank of discount) was this year established at Paris by a society of bankers and others, who subscribed a capital of twelve millions of livres. They proposed to accommodate the public by discounting bills at four per cent per annum, to deal in gold and silver bullion, to receive deposits of money from such as chose to lodge it with them, and to enter into no other branches of business. The whole of the regulations for conducting their affairs were thought to be very wisely planned; and the institution was supposed by the French to be a considerable improvement upon the bank of England. It was soon found, however, that the profits of discount at four per cent, when the charges of management and sometimes losses, were deducted, were by no means adequate to the amount of the capital employed in this bank, and therefor they were empowered to issue notes, the sum total of which was restricted to the amount of their capital; and the partners, being mostly dealers in money, found no difficulty in giving extensive currency and credit to their notes, which were readily accepted by the public, as they could at any time be converted into cash.

The British and French imports at Hamburgh and Bremen in the course of this year were in value as follows.

|  | Hamburgh.          | Bremen.          |
|--|--------------------|------------------|
| from Great Britain, Ireland, and<br>the British West Indies, | £974,442 : 5 : 0   | £178,476 : 3 : 0 |
| from France, - - -   | 1,099,559 : 12 : 0 | 307,580 : 15 : 0 |

The British cargoes carried to Hamburgh employed 226 vessels, whereof 164 were British. The French cargoes to the same port loaded 192 vessels, whereof only 10 were French, and 20 were British.

The French trade, notwithstanding the great inferiority of shipping, continued to have the ascendancy in these two cities, the later of which belongs in sovereignty to the king of Great Britain. But with respect to Hamburgh, the freights, if they are not included in this valuation, must turn the scale greatly in favour of Britain.

The empress of Russia, possessing the spirit, as well as the dominions, of Peter the Great, was indefatigable in her efforts to improve and po-

lish the manners of her subjects, and to elevate her dominions to that rank among the commercial and maritime powers of Europe, which their vast extent and resources seem to entitle them to. She projected the union of the inland Caspian sea, not only with the Baltic and the Black sea, but also with the Northern ocean, by improving the navigation of the vast rivers of her empire, and uniting them by canals, to be executed upon a grand scale; and by the same means she proposed to extend her inland navigation from Petersburg to the confines of China, an extent of about 4,500 miles, with a portage of only 60 miles. Fully sensible that human industry, and not merely a vast extent of territory, constitutes the power and riches of a state, she used every means to invite foreigners to settle the boundless uncultivated, but fertile, tracts of her empire, by religious toleration and other encouragements, in consequence of which the banks of the Wolga were now peopled by above 6,000 adventitious families. In order to render the communication with China as convenient as possible to the caravans, every encouragement and assistance were given to cultivate the desert lands, and erect villages along the tract of their long and tedious journey. The greatest encouragement was also given to settle the ports of the new-acquired territory on the coast of the Black sea, and to prosecute the navigation of it and the Mediterranean, to which a free passage through the Dardanelles was stipulated in the treaty of peace with Turkey. And, after the conclusion of a most bloody and rancorous war with that empire, a great Russian mercantile house was actually established at Constantinople itself under the immediate patronage of the empress. By these vigorous measures has the commerce of Russia advanced to considerable magnitude; and at this time the exports of that empire were double the amount that they were twenty years before. Part of the increase however was owing to the revolution in America, whereby Great Britain was obliged to return to the northern countries of Europe for the supply of naval stores, which had for many years been obtained from the American colonies: and part, also occasioned by the same event, was owing to the increased demand and greatly advanced price of tobacco in Europe, whereof great quantities grow in Russia, which now began to export it to Lubeck and Holland, whence a good deal of it was reshipped for France.

But the unfavourable nature and situation of the very small portions of navigable sea assigned to that vast empire by the distribution of nature, and the enslaved condition of the people, seem to oppose barriers, perhaps insurmountable, (or at least requiring the labour and prudent attention of ages) against the progress of Russia towards a state of aggrandizement, in any degree proportionable to its extent, or even to its population.

Mr. Spalding, a citizen of Edinburgh, received a handsome premium from the society for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and com-

merce, for his great improvements on the diving-bell, whereby the divers can lower themselves down without fear of being overturned by rocks or other impediments at the bottom, and can re-ascend to the surface at pleasure : and they can also, when at the bottom, move to a considerable distance from the spot on which they lighted\*.

A much more useful and important discovery was this year made public in France by Mr. de Brosles, president of the parliament of Dijon. His granaries being infested by weevils, he threw some lobsters among the wheat, the smell of which, whether alive or dead (and the more putrid, the better) is so noxious to those insects, that they immediately come out of the corn, and leave the granary. The simplicity of this remedy puts it in the power of every farmer and dealer in corn to preserve from the depredations of devouring vermin a property, so exceedingly valuable to the owner and to the community, so very important in commerce, and so essentially necessary to the subsistence of mankind.

There belonged this year to all the ports  
 of England 7,784 vessels of the reputed burthen of 604,071 tuns;  
 and of Scotland 1,640 - - - 91,502

Total 9,424 695,573

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain, from and to foreign countries, including repeated voyages,

|         | British. |         | Foreign. |         | Total.   |         |
|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
|         | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.   |
| Inward  | 8,135    | 765,220 | 1,569    | 191,999 | 9,704    | 957,219 |
| Outward | 9,946    | 872,108 | 643      | 74,323  | 10,589   | 946,431 |

The net amount of the customs, including the West-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the course of this year, was

from the custom-house in London £2,460,402 11 2  
 and from the custom-house in Edinburgh 20,000 0 0

Total net revenue of the customs of Great Britain £2,480,402 11 2

There were coined at the mint in the course of the year  
 107,145 pounds of gold, value £5,006,350 2 6  
 and 101 pounds 9 ounces of silver, 315 8 6

£5,006,665 11 0

\* The ingenious author of these improvements fell a victim to his own art on the coast of Ireland in May 1783.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Christmas 1775 to Christmas 1776 was as follows.

| Countries, &c.            | Imported into   |              | Exported from    |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|
|                           | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.    | ENGLAND.         | SCOTLAND.       |
| Africa                    | £99,674 13 11   |              | £470,779 1 1     |                 |
| Canaries                  | 4,428 17 10     |              | 37,969 1 2       |                 |
| Denmark and Norway        | 103,029 11 5    | £17,414 11 8 | 232,970 2 3      | £20,239 18 3    |
| East Country              | 240,658 19 4    |              | 60,293 0 5       |                 |
| East India                | 1,468,077 13 7  |              | 726,398 8 5      |                 |
| Flanders                  | 107,633 4 10    |              | 1,038,483 1 0    |                 |
| France                    | 56,865 2 8      | 2,904 19 6   | 178,319 0 10     | 233,580 12 0    |
| Germany                   | 666,080 2 2     | 11,023 15 11 | 1,460,776 0 9    | 88,179 12 4     |
| Greenland                 | 41,058 9 2      | 7,278 1 0    | 24 12 3          |                 |
| Holland                   | 381,098 7 3     | 101,709 0 3  | 1,427,396 15 9   | 179,002 18 11   |
| Ireland                   | 1,516,532 1 10  | 136,978 13 0 | 2,178,227 17 3   | 279,890 15 2    |
| Mann                      | 6,473 18 4      | 96 6 6       | 11,156 8 11      | 538 16 5        |
| Italy                     | 910,354 6 6     | 4,551 4 4    | 873,448 1 0      | 1,352 0 0       |
| Madeira                   | 2,872 14 5      | 46 14 6      | 24,801 16 0      | 795 18 0        |
| Minorca                   |                 |              | 147 13 0         |                 |
| Poland                    |                 | 7,201 9 8    |                  | 773 10 9        |
| Portugal                  | 372,439 19 4    | 21,760 12 2  | 530,784 13 1     | 1,507 4 1       |
| Prussia                   |                 | 22,152 0 1   |                  | 1,392 2 6       |
| Russia                    | 1,077,355 0 11  | 166,975 7 2  | 249,381 14 8     | 2,492 8 8       |
| Spain                     | 561,071 11 9    | 12,747 12 9  | 1,191,477 19 3   | 18,426 9 4      |
| Gibraltar                 |                 | 95 15 7      |                  | 747 8 6         |
| Straits                   | 2,876 5 6       |              | 24,337 18 6      |                 |
| Sweden                    | 248,836 6 9     | 24,860 19 9  | 113,131 10 4     | 1,957 7 1       |
| Turkey                    | 249,738 3 5     |              | 213,756 4 1      |                 |
| Venice                    | 46,293 5 1      |              | 64,824 5 11      |                 |
| Guernsey, &c.             | 33,040 4 7      | 625 3 7      | 58,573 6 9       | 1,803 10 10     |
| America in general        |                 | 95,596 1 2   |                  | 71,559 15 1     |
| Hudson's bay              | 6,634 12 3      |              | 5,778 2 5        |                 |
| Newfoundland              | 50,442 3 1      |              | 130,280 4 1      |                 |
| Cape Breton               |                 |              | 164 11 0         |                 |
| Quebec                    | 54,925 13 4     |              | 446,928 2 11     |                 |
| Nova Scotia               | 6,529 13 2      |              | 245,036 10 10    |                 |
| New England               | 762 13 0        |              | 55,050 9 7       |                 |
| New York                  | 2,318 15 5      |              |                  |                 |
| Pennsylvania              | 1,421 4 2       |              | 365 0 0          |                 |
| Maryland and Virginia     | 73,226 3 2      |              |                  |                 |
| Carolina                  | 13,668 1 5      |              |                  |                 |
| Georgia                   | 12,569 13 4     |              |                  |                 |
| Florida                   | 30,928 15 4     |              | 174,175 3 1      | 121,584 7 6     |
| West Indies in general    |                 | 112,661 14 0 |                  |                 |
| Antigua                   | 297,535 14 9    |              | 169,436 10 9     |                 |
| Barbados                  | 191,531 19 1    |              | 142,134 11 6     |                 |
| Bermuda                   | 238 11 4        |              | 11,413 3 11      |                 |
| Dominica                  | 257,775 15 3    |              | 64,697 18 6      |                 |
| Grenada                   | 370,884 9 0     |              | 163,366 11 6     |                 |
| Jamaica                   | 1,359,033 2 1   |              | 632,315 5 9      |                 |
| Montserrat                | 64,521 19 5     |              | 22,938 12 8      |                 |
| Nevis                     | 93,231 11 5     |              | 23,836 14 5      |                 |
| New Providence            | 2,950 15 2      |              | 5,422 16 8       |                 |
| St. Croix                 | 16,869 1 3      |              | 406 3 0          |                 |
| St. Eustathius            | 709 13 6        |              | 1,656 9 2        |                 |
| St. Christophers          | 293,482 0 7     |              | 160,635 2 10     |                 |
| St. Thomas                | 1,675 17 8      |              | 2,368 8 7        |                 |
| St. Vincents              | 135,919 14 2    |              | 45,993 11 6      |                 |
| Tobago                    | 83,066 19 0     |              | 21,913 13 7      |                 |
| Tortola                   | 44,451 10 5     |              | 28,841 18 5      |                 |
| Bay of Honduras           | 30,007 9 0      |              | 2,215 8 10       |                 |
| Musquito shore            | 2,468 16 0      |              | 12,797 5 5       |                 |
| Falkland's islands        | 783 5 0         |              | 321 16 6         |                 |
| Imp. and exp. of England  | 11,696,754 14 6 |              | 13,729,731 7 0   |                 |
| Imp. and exp. of Scotland | 746,680 2 7     | 746,680 2 7  | 1,025,972 10 11  | 1,025,972 10 11 |
| Total, Great Britain      | 12,443,434 17 1 |              | 14,755,703 17 11 |                 |

1777, January 3<sup>d</sup>—The East India company having now paid up the whole of the money advanced to them by government in the year 1773, together with the interest on it, they were consequently at liberty, agreeable to the act of parliament, [13 *Geo. III*, c. 64] to raise their dividend from *six* to *seven* per cent: and they accordingly declared their half-yearly dividend to be *three and a half* per cent.

The French private merchants in Bengal had carried on their trade, after the suspension of their company's exclusive privilege, on paying the same duties which had formerly been paid by the company. But in April 1776 the governor-general and council of Bengal directed their revenue officers to charge them, as individuals, with *four* per cent on the amount of their invoices, on all goods except foreign salt, on which all persons, whether companies or individuals were to pay 10 rupees for every 100 maunds.

Mr. Chevalier, a principal French merchant, remonstrated against this regulation, and urged that the duties of *two and a half* per cent had been paid with great exactness by the French merchants at Chandanagore according to immemorial usage and the privileges of their nation. The other French merchants, and also the Dutch and Danish private traders, joining in the application, the governor-general and council determined, as it was an object of no great consequence, to let the goods of French private merchants pass on a duty of two and a half per cent, still reserving their right to four per cent, when they should think proper to claim it (24<sup>th</sup> March).

February 21<sup>st</sup>—Sir Joseph Yorke, the British ambassador to Holland, had presented several memorials to the States-general, complaining of the favour and countenance shown by the Dutch to the Americans in the West-Indies: and he now again presented one, complaining in the strongest terms of the governor of St. Eustathius, a Dutch island in the West-Indies, who from his fort had returned the salute of an American ship, and insisting on a formal disavowal of such proceedings, and the recall of the governor. In about five weeks thereafter the Dutch ambassador at London gave in an answer, wherein the States-general expressly disavowed the conduct of their governor, whom they had ordered home to lay an account of his conduct before them. They also declared, that they had sent repeated orders to all their governors in the West-Indies, enjoining a strict observance of their placards against furnishing military stores to the Americans. The Dutch traders in the West-Indies continued, notwithstanding, to pay no attention to any orders, which they thought contrary to their own interest. Neither is it probable, that their government ever intended, that they should be strictly observed.

Mr. Hartley, having in April 1773 obtained the king's patent for fourteen years for his invention of a method of securing buildings



and ships from fire, and having represented that he could not in that period be reimbursed the charges he must necessarily be at, parliament indulged him with a prolongation of it for thirty-one years from the date of passing the act; exempting, however, from his exclusive privilege the king's dock-yards, rope-houses, &c. [17 *Geo. III*, c. 6.] (3<sup>d</sup> March.)

March 27<sup>th</sup>—A permanent committee of the manufacturers of the west riding of Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Cheshire, was appointed to sit at Halifax, to prevent frauds in combing wool, reeling yarn, &c. [17 *Geo. III*, c. 11.]

The act to prevent frauds in the measurement of coals was continued to the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1798, and thence, as usual, to the end of the next session of parliament. [17 *Geo. III*, c. 13.]

An order of the house of commons enables me to lay before the reader

An

*An account of the value, as rated in the inspector's books, of all the woollen goods of all sorts, viz. bays, cloths, cottons (or coatings), flannels, serges, says, stuffs, stuffs mixed, carpets, and worsted stockings, &c. exported from England to all countries during the following years.*

|                       | 1772          | 1773           | 1774          | 1775          | 1776           |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Africa                | £167,571 10 3 | 223,362 8 2    | 178,542 11 11 | 177,132 16 11 | 68,507 13 9    |
| Canaries              | 18,395 7 6    | 24,869 5 0     | 29,151 6 3    | 22,415 4 2    | 25,692 0 0     |
| Denmark, &c.          | 29,416 0 0    | 16,353 0 7     | 22,323 16 3   | 42,380 0 7    | 44,277 3 10    |
| East country          | 40,855 12 2   | 24,308 5 9     | 29,384 4 4    | 23,162 17 4   | 24,323 1 11    |
| East-India            | 232,643 19 0  | 182,422 4 8    | 148,021 17 6  | 164,472 13 8  | 99,172 19 8    |
| Flanders              | 203,975 7 8   | 212,828 14 6   | 195,699 13 4  | 258,022 7 7   | 252,075 2 7    |
| France                | 2,990 7 6     | 2,660 12 2     | 1,306 6 6     | 16,480 17 10  | 813 10 0       |
| Germany               | 253,847 16 11 | 249,696 17 11  | 277,507 10 7  | 304,560 16 10 | 312,759 17 1   |
| Holland               | 411,140 3 5   | 361,424 5 4    | 381,912 11 5  | 397,443 12 2  | 388,917 19 5   |
| Ireland               | 169,044 17 7  | 209,167 15 6   | 253,806 10 10 | 318,944 0 11  | 276,053 18 8   |
| Mann                  |               | 1,800 15 0     | 3,090 0 0     | 2,807 18 0    | 2,402 10 0     |
| Italy                 | 454,992 1 3   | 367,698 5 5    | 395,182 2 3   | 519,007 16 0  | 483,905 5 1    |
| Madeira               | 3,726 17 6    | 4,449 15 0     | 10,169 9 4    | 5,809 9 7     | 2,716 5 0      |
| Portugal              | 500,298 13 11 | 408,270 17 6   | 428,811 12 11 | 448,078 13 2  | 350,104 17 10  |
| Russia                | 53,011 1 1    | 71,027 15 11   | 59,817 13 1   | 48,576 4 8    | 58,852 7 2     |
| Spain                 | 552,575 7 6   | 579,373 2 5    | 655,318 14 3  | 867,648 8 0   | 859,119 7 7    |
| Straits               | 110,811 1 0   | 50,799 9 4     | 134,694 1 8   | 28,111 6 6    | 21,668 6 9     |
| Sweden                | 809 3 0       | 75 1 0         | 612 9 6       | 847 13 6      | 2,723 8 10     |
| Turkey                | 59,191 10 0   | 62,732 15 0    | 89,566 17 6   | 131,857 13 6  | 115,306 10 6   |
| Venice                | 13,375 10 0   | 15,309 17 0    | 13,132 12 6   | 12,687 6 0    | 14,821 0 0     |
| Guernsey, &c.         | 6,801 6 6     | 3,843 1 2      | 7,280 15 0    | 8,054 10 6    | 11,749 11 2    |
| Hudson's bay          | 1,643 3 2     | 1,928 12 10    | 1,288 7 9     | 1,697 10 8    | 1,658 15 8     |
| Newfoundland          | 9,751 5 3     | 4,538 3 5      | 5,066 18 4    | 5,231 12 5    | 6,153 16 11    |
| Cape Breton           |               |                | 43 12 6       |               | 6 9 0          |
| Quebec                | 64,045 1 3    | 106,237 18 1   | 100,887 15 4  | 171,782 1 6   | 200,569 12 4   |
| Nova Scotia           | 15,428 11 7   | 4,414 12 10    | 13,031 5 5    | 9,601 19 3    | 53,727 12 2    |
| New England           | 284,553 9 10  | 147,717 15 4   | 168,815 16 9  | 8,382 9 3     | 15,657 2 5     |
| New York              | 128,879 0 10  | 76,498 5 3     | 129,547 5 8   | 345 0 0       |                |
| Pennsylvania          | 216,055 2 2   | 135,119 2 8    | 217,205 13 4  | 210 10 3      |                |
| Maryland and Virginia | 185,437 5 3   | 99,308 14 6    | 133,912 10 1  | 5 18 0        |                |
| Carolina              | 84,226 11 10  | 73,403 18 9    | 91,361 1 2    | 1,106 2 6     |                |
| Georgia               | 26,492 0 3    | 16,982 15 3    | 14,627 3 9    | 39,719 11 3   |                |
| Florida               | 17,357 5 0    | 20,778 2 0     | 23,122 11 7   | 22,518 3 4    | 42,366 14 0    |
| Antigua               | 11,219 16 5   | 8,855 0 11     | 10,879 11 11  | 14,328 13 10  | 19,931 2 6     |
| Barbados              | 11,968 1 1    | 18,417 9 5     | 11,737 5 6    | 15,208 14 2   | 7,955 4 1      |
| Bermuda               | 1,999 0 9     | 1,189 15 1     | 972 14 5      | 2,255 14 0    | 2,239 3 5      |
| Dominica              | 3,067 3 2     | 1,277 7 8      | 9,210 10 4    | 3,521 9 0     | 1,976 1 4      |
| Grenada               | 10,130 12 3   | 3,037 12 5     | 2,223 4 3     | 5,037 13 1    | 5,384 14 2     |
| Jamaica               | 63,841 16 5   | 68,219 18 2    | 66,128 17 6   | 89,403 8 6    | 68,925 15 6    |
| Montserrat            | 1,512 3 0     | 505 9 8        | 483 8 4       | 2,207 11 4    | 1,947 5 0      |
| Nevis                 | 1,050 19 4    | 1,018 0 0      | 1,471 16 4    | 1,728 16 1    | 2,422 16 0     |
| St. Christophers      | 7,488 11 1    | 4,164 0 0      | 7,516 1 8     | 7,274 12 3    | 12,924 9 1     |
| St. Vincents          | 1,271 2 6     | 4,302 0 5      | 3,460 9 10    | 8,167 13 2    | 2,440 18 3     |
| Tobago                | 1,990 4 0     | 226 14 0       | 2,218 16 2    | 1,664 18 3    | 1,111 12 0     |
| Tortola               | 1,701 7 3     | 2,878 12 8     | 625 17 5      | 1,438 5 9     | 2,711 1 4      |
| New Providence        | 2 15 0        | 25 0 0         | 138 14 0      | 6,809 13 3    |                |
| St. Thomas            |               |                |               | 162 15 0      | 1,085 0 0      |
| Bay of Honduras       | 0 16 10       | 0 17 9         | 4 8 0         | 62 10 0       |                |
| Musquito shore        | 196 5 0       | 2,909 14 3     | 2,267 10 0    | 209 0 0       | 893 18 4       |
| Falkland's islands    |               |                |               | 588 6 8       |                |
| Totals                | 4,436,783 4 5 | 3,875,929 17 8 | 4,333,583 4 2 | 4,220,173 0 2 | 3,868,053 19 6 |

Such was the value, according to the custom-house computation (and it was considerably more in reality) of what could be spared from the productions of this most important manufacture, besides supplying the home consumption of all England and Wales, and nearly the whole home consumption, and most of the exportation, of Scotland, which later was much more considerable before the American revolution, than it has been since. This capital branch of manufacture is said to give employment to a million and a half of people in various parts of England\*.

April 24<sup>th</sup>—The house of commons having required the lords of trade to consider the state of the African trade, and the application of the money allowed by parliament for the support and protection of it, they made up a report, of which the following is nearly the substance.

Their lordships find, that the proceedings of the African committee previous to the year 1758 have been examined, and approved of.

It appears, that since that period the important trade for slaves, ivory, and gold, in exchange for British manufactures and India piece goods, has altered greatly for the worse. The price of Gold-coast slaves (the most valuable species of slaves) has increased from £13 to £27 sterling †, which is intolerably burthensome on the West-India planters: ivory has become scarce, and consequently advanced in price; and gold, instead of being imported in large quantities, as formerly, in exchange for British manufactures, must now be carried out by the free merchants, or purchased on the coast at an exorbitant rate, as no slaves can now be procured without it ‡.

It appears, that the establishments of governors and other officers at the several posts on the coast of Africa, which are supported at the national expense, with a view to enable every British subject to trade on the coast in a free and open manner, has been perverted to a monopoly, utterly subversive of the intentions of parliament, and ruinous to the

\* The large book, from which I have compressed and digested this account, shows, that now, as well as formerly, a much greater value of woollen manufactures was shipped from London than from all the outports of England. In the year 1775, when the exports of London was much less than in

some other years, the value of woollens shipped from London was £2,247,570 : 3 : 0, and from the outports £1,972,602 : 17 : 2.

It may be agreeable to see the value of the exports of the same species of goods from England a century earlier.

|                     |             |                       |            |       |            |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------|------------|-------|------------|
| In 1698 from London | £2,102,634, | and from the outports | £1,017,981 | Total | £3,120,615 |
| 1700                | 2,021,145   |                       | 968,018    |       | 2,989,163  |
| 1701                | 2,045,951   |                       | 1,082,414  |       | 3,128,365  |

† Some of the witnesses stated the price to have been only £10 for male slaves in the year 1748, which in the year 1763 had advanced to £13. A chronological statement of the prices of that article of trade will be found under the year 1788.

‡ It was given in evidence by the slaving captains, that the black slave-merchants insisted on having two ounces of gold, value £8 (in which of the currencies?) in the price of every slave. And, the gold being all collected by the resident governors and other officers in their petty dealings with the negroes, the captains are obliged to purchase it from them at any price they please to put upon it.

free trade, by the governors of the forts, in conjunction with some people at home, one, or more, of whom have at the same time been of the very committee, which is authorized and supported by parliament for the exprefs purpose of correcting and restraining abuses in the trade.

The governors carry on a continual petty retail trade with the negroes in spiritous liquors and tobacco, whereby they collect almost all the gold on the coast. Part of that gold they pay to the commanders of the Dutch forts for Brazil tobacco, an article nearly as indispenfible as gold in the purchase of slaves.

The governors, availing themselves of their residence on the coast, and of the use of the stores, slaves, and vessels, belonging to the public, committed to their charge, have been enabled to engross more than one half of the whole British trade on the coast\*; and, if they are not speedily put under proper restrictions, they will soon effectually exclude every British free merchant from any share in it, except in a dependence upon them†.

By the pre-emption of the best slaves, and by purchasing slaves from the Dutch governors, they are enabled to dispatch their ships with full cargoes, while others, attempting a free and independent trade, are obliged to lie a long time on the coast at a vast expence, before they can complete their cargoes; and are generally under the necessity of having recourse to the governors at last, and paying them an exorbitant price for such slaves as they do not think good enough to be shipped on their own account‡.

Ships, with cargoes suited to the African trade, are consigned to the governors by their partners here. These ships carry out, not only British goods, but also great quantities of Dutch manufactures, to the great prejudice of our own§. The inferior kind of rum, distilled in New-England, has been imported to the coast in such abundance||, that in the year 1775 no less than thirteen ships from Boston and Rhode-island carried off from the Gold-coast 2288 slaves, bought solely with that article, and chiefly from the governors; and another ship from

\* It was stated by the slaving captains, that the governors received their goods free of freight, and stored them in warehouses built and kept up at the national expence, as they also lodged their slaves in the slave-holes, of which there is one in every fort.

† It was asserted in evidence, that the governors are expressly prohibited by their instructions from having any concern in trade. But it may be asked on the other hand, what could induce them to accept such offices, if their emoluments were to be confined to their salaries.

‡ The commanders of the slaving ships declared, that the more money government bestowed for supporting the freedom of the trade, the more the governors were enabled to monopolize it, by brib-

ing the black chiefs and traders at the national expence to turn the whole of the trade to their private advantage, whereby, they supposed, they might soon be enabled to engross the whole of it.

§ General O'Hara, governor of Senegambia, in the year 1766 estimated the damage done to the manufacturing interest of Great Britain by the sale of foreign manufactures at the British settlements in Africa to be considerably above £200,000 sterling annually.

|| Lord Sheffield states the quantity of rum carried from North America to Africa, on the average of the years 1768, 1769, 1770, to be 270,147 gallons.

Rhode-island sold her whole cargo of rum to the governors for gold and bills of exchange. The governors, having such a command of the slave trade, have availed themselves of the superior character of the Gold-coast slaves by buying up others of inferior quality, and passing them upon unexperienced purchasers as Gold-coast slaves.

By the returns of the slaves shipped off from the coast, which are transmitted by the governors to the African committee, the annual exportation of Gold-coast slaves appears to have been almost doubled in the last six years: but, notwithstanding the apparent authenticity of those returns, the lords of trade are of opinion, that the merchants of London, Bristol, and Liverpool, are warranted in asserting, that the trade for real Gold-coast slaves is diminished, the trade for ivory much lessened, and the trade for gold totally lost; that the British manufactures have fallen greatly in value on the coast, while every article of African produce has risen prodigiously\*.

Though parliament has actually made grants for the support of the several forts on the coast of Africa, amounting, from the year 1750 to 1776, both inclusive, to the sum of £343,400, exclusive of £112,142: 3: 3 paid as a compensation to the Royal African company for the surrender of their charter, forts, and effects; yet all the forts, except Annamaboe and Dixcove, are in a ruinous condition, and their ordinance totally unserviceable. Nor do the forts, if really fortified, afford any protection to the free merchant: but, being merely repositories, or store-houses, for private trade, they operate to the extreme prejudice and discouragement of the general trade.

It appears, that the public money is every year invested by the committee in goods suitable to the African market, which are given to the committee's governors and other servants in payment of their salaries and other claims upon the public, and applied by them to the purposes of their private trade. These payments being often advanced by the governors out of their private stores before the arrival of the store ships, they take the opportunity of putting off goods of a very inferior quality, for which they charge the price of the best.

No less than three different currencies had been established on the coast, and used in the books kept at the forts, to the utter subversion of all perspicuity in the accounts. The committee, sensible of so gross an impropriety, (to call it no worse) had ordered, that all accounts should be kept in one currency, called *Company's pay*, which is stated to be at a permanent exchange of 50 per cent: but, notwithstanding that order, it was discovered by Mr. Camplin, the secretary of the African committee, that the governors still found means, by a stroke of management in the

\* Is not such the natural progress of all trades between civilized and uncivilized nations? If the fur trade on the north-west coast of America shall continue to be prosecuted, will a skin, which is worth 100 dollars in China, continue to be purchased for a bit of iron hoop?

exchange, to convey into their own pockets one fifth part of the whole of the public money. By these and other means the governors have made up accounts, whereby the committee, or rather the public, appears to be indebted to them £15,962 : 3 : 5 sterling, over and above the value of the public goods in the stores, at the end of the year 1775; and it is presumed, that the debt is greatly increased during the year 1776.

Upon the whole of the inquiry it appears, that the number of slaves exported from Africa has greatly decreased, and the price greatly increased\*; that the importation of gold, which was formerly at the rate of 100,000 ounces annually, procured in exchange for British goods upon very profitable terms, is now annihilated; and that, while the trade is thus going to ruin, the expense of supporting it is increased to an enormous degree.

A reply to this report was presented at the board of trade in July 1779, wherein the governors and other servants of the African committee, stationed on the coast, endeavoured to repel the charges made against them.

April 30<sup>th</sup>—The corporation of London, finding their operations in improving the navigation of the River Thames above London cramped by the interference of private proprietors of tolls, &c. applied to parliament, and obtained authority to purchase all the private tolls, and to take a moderate simplified toll instead of them, after the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, from every barge in proportion to the tunnage and distance. [17 Geo. III, c. 18.]

The improvement of the streets and passages, communicating with the naval street of Wapping, which was now regulated by parliament, may, not improperly, be mentioned, as a proof of increasing and flourishing commerce. [17 Geo. III, c. 22.]

May 16<sup>th</sup>—In order to prevent the frauds committed in the sale of annuities for life by means of the secrecy wherewith they used to be transacted, a memorial of all the circumstances of every such annuity was directed to be registered in the court of chancery. All annuities sold by minors are by this act, with great propriety, declared null and void†. [17 Geo. III, c. 26.]

To encourage the exportation of tea to Ireland, the whole duty of the custom was allowed to be drawn back. [17 Geo. III, c. 27.]

In order to prevent frauds in the revenue of excise with respect to tea, all persons making counterfeit tea of leaves of sloe, liquorish, ash, elder, &c. or of tea that has been used, are subjected to a fine of five pounds

\* Is not the increase of price a natural consequence of the decrease of quantity? Perhaps Africa begins to be exhausted of its live stock.

† This remedial act, framed with the wisest and

most benevolent intentions, has been perverted by mistakes and violent misconstructions so as to be made to hold out encouragement and protection to many infamous frauds.



for every pound weight of such leaves sold by them, or found in their possession. [17 Geo. III, c. 29.]

In consequence of the advantage resulting to the public from suppressing the circulation of notes for less than twenty shillings, parliament now determined to extend the restriction to all notes drawn in England for any sum under five pounds; and all such were directed after the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1778 to be made payable at twenty-one days after date, to express the name and residence of the receiver, and to be transferable only by an indorsement, which should also contain the residence, as well as the name, of the indorsee: and the original drawing, and every indorsement, were required to be further authenticated by the subscriptions of witnesses. [17 Geo. III, c. 30.]

The dyers of Middlesex, Essex, Surrey, and Kent, were relieved from the hardship imposed on them by an act of Queen Elizabeth, which prohibited them from employing as journeymen any persons, who had not served an apprenticeship of seven years; and they were thenceforth permitted to employ such journeymen as they thought proper. [17 Geo. III, c. 33.] This was a considerable advance towards the emancipation of handicraft trades from the shackles of a mistaken feudal policy.

The act for prohibiting the importation of foreign silks and velvets, and for preventing unlawful combinations of workmen employed in the silk manufacture, was continued to the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 1782. [17 Geo. III, c. 35.]

Some new regulations were made respecting the duties payable on glass, and the materials for making it. [17 Geo. III, c. 39.]

June—The commanders of ships in the East-India company's service allowing goods to be received onboard their ships, or delivered out of them, at sea, were subjected to a forfeiture of triple the value of the goods so taken onboard or delivered.—All commanders of British or Irish vessels arriving at any port in the Baltic, where a British consul resides, are directed to deliver to him manifests specifying the particulars of their cargoes. [17 Geo. III, c. 41.]

The sizes of bricks and tiles were regulated by law; and all combinations to advance their prices, or to engross them, were strictly prohibited. [17 Geo. III, c. 42.]

Some new regulations were made respecting the duties payable on the importation of currants and raisins.—And tobacco-pipe clay was permitted to be exported to the sugar colonies for the purpose of cleansing sugar, or making what is called clayed sugar. [17 Geo. III, c. 43.]

The several acts—for encouraging the culture of indigo in the British colonies—for registering the prices, and the imports and exports of corn—for regulating the duty on tanners' bark in proportion to the prices—for allowing the exportation of timber, the produce of Dominica, to any other British colony—and for a bounty on the exporta-

tion of British-made cordage, were all continued for different limited times. [17 Geo. III, c. 44.]

Five millions of money were raised this year by a loan at *four per cent*, with an annuity of ten shillings for ten years: and half a million more by a lottery, the subscriber of every £100 of the loan being entitled to one lottery ticket at £10. [17 Geo. III, c. 46.] By these terms the permanent interest on the real money borrowed is only *four per cent*: and, as there was no creation of fictitious capital, which makes a real high interest appear a low one, this may be considered as a good bargain made by the minister for the public\*.

The commissioners of the longitude were empowered to bestow £5,000 in a reward, or rewards, to any persons discovering improvements respecting the longitude, or in any branch of navigation. [17 Geo. III, c. 48.]

Auctioneers within the bills of mortality were subjected to an annual payment of twenty shillings, and other auctioneers, of five shillings, for licence to carry on their business, after the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 1777: and at the same time a duty was laid on all property sold by auction. But from this duty were exempted, all property sold by order of court; the sales of the East-India and Hudson's-bay companies; sales by order of the commissioners of the customs, excise, ordinance, navy, and the victualling office; goods distrained for rent; the effects of bankrupts; the produce of the British colonies sold within one year after their importation; vessels and cargoes taken as prizes; wrecked goods; and sales for the benefit of creditors.——By the same act a great variety of new stamp-duties were imposed upon conveyances of property, policies of insurance, &c. [17 Geo. III, c. 50.]

Stricter regulations were enacted for securing the duties payable on the manufacture of soap, and the importation of rum. [17 Geo. III, c. 52.]

The hatmakers were relieved from the hardships of an act of Elizabeth and another of James I, whereby they were prohibited from employing any journeymen, who had not served seven years as apprentices, or any foreigners, and are directed to employ as many journeymen as apprentices, if they offer themselves. [17 Geo. III, c. 55.] Another step towards breaking the shackles of feudal tyranny.

Penalties were enacted for the embezzlement of materials intrusted to work-people in the manufactures of hats, wool, linen, silk, &c. [17 Geo. III, c. 56.]

The law ascertaining the property of engravings to their original authors was corroborated. [17 Geo. III, c. 57.]

\* The high interest upon the real sum borrowed is not the only pernicious consequence of creating a fictitious augmentation of the capital. The nominal hundreds may become real hundreds; and

the holders of some branches of the funds, in case of paying off the debt, may demand, and actually receive above £200 for £100 originally lent to the public.

Several acts were also passed, as usual, for the improvement of various parts of London, for building bridges, making canals, draining fens, and dividing commons.

The company who established the great iron works at Carron in Stirling-shire in the year 1760, had now brought their manufacture to such a degree of perfection, that their exportation was at this time an object of great national importance. Their great guns, which were cast solid, and bored by a drill worked by the whole force of the River Carron, were exported to Russia, Denmark, Spain, &c. : and the quantities were so considerable, that the government was unwilling to let them be carried in ordinary ships, lest they should fall into the hands of the American cruisers. The company thereupon fitted out a stout ship of their own, properly armed and manned, for the purpose of carrying to Spain 300 iron guns from three to twenty-four pounders. This is given as a specimen of the cargoes shipped by that great manufacturing company, who besides supplying the demand in Britain, about this time furnished many other cargoes of great guns to Spain, Russia, and other foreign powers. The war also greatly increased the demand for their iron ballast, which was universally used in the navy, and also in many merchant ships. Their stoves, which are now in every apartment all over the kingdom, were at this time beginning to come into use.

In the year 1755 the corporation of Liverpool employed Messieurs Taylor and Eyles to survey the country, with a view to consider of a plan for joining the River Trent on the east side of the country with the Mersea on the west side, whereby the navigable communication with Hull, which by sea is a circuit of a thousand miles, and in time of war with France is peculiarly exposed to the enemy's cruisers, might be performed with ease and safety in a line of less than two hundred miles. In the year 1758 the marquis of Stafford and Lord Anson promoted another survey for the same purpose, which was executed by Mr. Brindley, the same heaven-taught engineer, who showed the world the wonders of the duke of Bridgewater's canal. In 1766 this important canal was begun by Mr. Brindley ; and it was finished, after his death, by his brother-in-law, Mr. Henshall, in May 1777, to the great joy of the whole country. It has obtained the name of the Grand trunk navigation, because it goes under ground at five places, the most remarkable of which is Harecastle hill, where it extends 2,880 yards (above one mile and five furlongs) under the mountain, the surface of which is more than 200 feet above it ; a work projected and accomplished by the happy boldness of Brindley's genius, after being ridiculed by other engineers as impracticable.

The main canal between the Trent and the Mersea was greatly improved by the junction of a branch, of 46 miles in length, extended to the Severn at Bewdley in Worcester-shire, which connects the three great

commercial towns of Bristol, Liverpool, and Hull, between which goods can be conveyed without any trouble of unloading and reshipping. This work was also planned and executed by Mr. Brindley.

To this later canal was soon after added another of 26 miles: and thereafter so many other branches were connected with it, for extending the communication through a wide range of the country, that it would be tedious to recount them all.

May 27<sup>th</sup>—Messieurs Clark and Berkenhout applied to the lords of trade for a reward for an invention, whereby they can dye cotton in scarlet and crimson colours, both in grain: and their lordships recommended their invention to the king, as worthy of a reward, in order that it might be made public for the benefit and extension of the manufactures of the kingdom.

Grenada, and some of the other islands in the West-Indies had for several years been infested with the carnivorous ants (the *formica omivora* of Linnæus) in such inconceivable numbers, that the surface of the ground was often entirely covered with them, and carcases of large animals were reduced to skeletons with astonishing dispatch. The ratoon canes\*, lime trees, and, in general, all plants, which form a stool, or arched assemblage of roots, under ground, were totally destroyed by their burrowing under them: and some planters were actually obliged totally to abandon the cultivation of sugar, and put their lands in cotton and other productions exempted from the ravages of that tremendous scourge. Many attempts were made to extirpate them; and Mr. Phillips of Grenada, who had discovered a powder to destroy them, applied to the lords of trade for a reward, who recommended it to the treasury to give him a proper recompense, in consequence of which, the house of commons voted him a reward of £3,600 for his invention in the year 1781 †. But as it was impracticable to cover the whole surface of an island with his powder, and those ants, which were at a considerable depth under ground, were totally inaccessible by it, it was soon found, that the operation of the remedy must ever be too limited to produce any important effect: and those destructive little animals continued to distress and ruin the planters in several islands, and particularly in the French island of Martinique, till the year 1780 ‡. I ought

\* Ratoon canes are those which spring up from the roots of the canes, after they are cut. The ground, according to its strength, will produce ratoons for more or fewer years, each succeeding year's ratoons, however, yielding less and less sugar.

† That is, after the ants in Grenada, then a French island, were destroyed by the act of Providence in the hurricane of October 1780.

‡ According to Raynal, a reward of 666,000 livres had been offered in the year 1775 for the discovery of a remedy against the ants by the planters

of Martinique, who, notwithstanding a most dreadful hurricane in the year 1766, had been eleven years suffering from the destruction occasioned by those vermin. But before that time Mr. Desvovres, a planter of that island, had discovered, that by burning the cane trash in which the ants harboured, using plenty of manure, planting his canes anew every year, allowing room for the free circulation of air through them, and frequent weeding, he could obtain good crops of sugar. [*Hist. phil. et polit. V. vii, p. 70, ed. 1782.*]

at the same time to observe, that those ants, wherever they came, completely cleared the cane fields of rats, another dreadful kind of enemy to the sugar planters, whose ravages, in canes devoured, or rendered unfit for making sugar, are generally reckoned at not less than a third of the whole crop. Mr. Edwards has been informed, that they also remove the blast, which, after being long supposed a disease in the cane, has been found to consist of millions of animalcula, invisible to the naked eye, which extract the juices from the cane. [*Hist. of the West-Indies*, V. ii, p. 214, ed. 1794.]

The American cruisers now covered the ocean, and even infested the narrow seas of Great Britain and Ireland. Ships were taken in sight of the land; the communication between England and Ireland was interrupted; and a convoy was actually appointed for the protection of the vessels bringing linen from Ireland, which had never been necessary in any former war. The city of Dublin was terrified, and its harbour fortified: the coasts of England, Scotland, and Ireland were alarmed, and some places were even insulted and plundered. The citizens of Chester saw their fair postponed, because no linens were arrived from Ireland. But another sight, not less melancholy than new to the present race of British merchants, was exhibited on the River Thames, which was covered with foreign vessels, and particularly French ones, loading for various parts of the world with British cargoes, the shippers of which were now afraid to trust their property under the protection of the British flag.

The American cruisers found shelter, and also, underhand, encouragement, in the ports of France. However, partly in order to save appearances, but more to protract the commencement of open hostilities, for which France was not yet fully prepared, an order was issued by the French government, in consequence of a remonstrance by Lord Stormont, the British ambassador, enjoining all the American privateers with their prizes to quit the ports of France. But the order was so universally eluded, that it was evidently never intended to be enforced.

The British and French imports at Hamburgh and Bremen in the course of this year were in value as follows.

|  | Hamburgh.          | Bremen           |
|--|--------------------|------------------|
| From Great Britain, Ireland, and<br>the British West-Indies, | £884,497 : 14 : 0  | £97,076 : 18 : 0 |
| from France - - -  |                    |                  |
|  | 1,129,616 : 18 : 0 | 259,409 : 5 : 0  |

The cargoes carried from the British dominions to Hamburgh employed 167 vessels, whereof 135 were British. The French trade to the same port employed 185 vessels; but only 13 of them were French.

The total number of vessels arrived this year at Hamburgh was 2,991, whereof 2,420 were smacks and other small craft from Holland, Yuteland, Bremen, &c.



The following account of the gold coin circulating at the end of this year is given by Mr. Rose secretary of the Treasury \*.

' In the year 1773, previous to the act 14 *Geo. III*, c. 70, the Bank of England was authorized to buy up by weight certain light gold at standard price; and, by subsequent proclamations after the act, to exchange other deficient coin, as was therein specified: and it appears by the books of the Mint, that the gold so bought and exchanged was received there between the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 1773 and 10<sup>th</sup> of June 1777, amounting in standard weight to 326,298 lb, 1 oz, 8 dwt, 4 gr, value - - - - - £15,246,279

' In 1772 (the year preceding the commencement of the great recoinage) the Bank of England sent to the Mint, ingots from foreign gold, in standard weight 20,337 lb; and, as no part of the money into which it was coined, was issued from the Bank before the recoinage took place, its amount consequently made a part of the new money produced within the time of the recoinage, being -

950,245

' The Bank also sent to the Mint ingots from foreign gold, within the time of the recoinage from the year 1773 to the end of 1777, in standard weight, 62,033 lb: the coin produced therefrom made a further part of new money issued within the same period, amounting to - - - - -

2,898,491

' And there was also farther sent by the Bank to the Mint, from 1775 to the end of 1777, ingots from guineas (which ignorance or neglect had prevented from being brought in time to be exchanged under the proclamations) making in standard weight 28,935 lb. This gold was bought by the Bank, and sent to the Mint, in ordinary course of coinage, unattended with any other charge to the public, and made a part of new money,

\* Other accounts were published about this time, which differ from that here given: but there can be no reason to doubt of the superior authenticity of Mr. Rose's. It may, however, be submitted, whether some allowance should not be made for gold coin exported, or clandestinely melted, in the course of these years, which must have somewhat reduced the amount of co-existing gold money at the end of the year 1777.



also issued within the time of the recoin-  
 age, in value - - - - - 1,351,987  
 5,200,723

Amount of new gold money at the end of 1777 - 20,447,002

By estimation of men conversant, from their habits  
 and observation, to judge of the money in currency, the  
 heavy gold coin remaining in circulation (i. e. guineas  
 weighing 5 dwt, 8 gr, and upwards) was taken, on the  
 lowest, at - - - - - 5,000,000

[Besides which it was understood, that about two  
 millions of light guineas had been taken out of circula-  
 tion, and sent to America, which it is supposed, were  
 brought back to this country after the war, but no cre-  
 dit is taken for them here.]

Makes the amount of gold money circulating at the  
 end of 1777 to be - - - - - £25,447,002

There belonged this year to all the ports  
 of England - 7,575 vessels of the reputed burthen of 610,201 tons,  
 and of Scotland 1,521 - - - - - 88,729

Total - 9,096 - - - - - 698,930

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain, from  
 and to foreign countries, including repeated voyages,

|           | British  |         | Foreign  |         | Total    |           |
|-----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|-----------|
|           | Vessels. | Tons.   | Vessels. | Tons.   | Vessels. | Tons.     |
| Inward -  | 8,390    | 815,517 | 1,992    | 252,437 | 10,382   | 1,067,954 |
| Outward - | 9,556    | 830,545 | 877      | 102,310 | 10,433   | 932,855   |

The net amount of the customs, including the West India four-and-a-  
 half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the course of this year,  
 was from the custom-house in London - £2,199,105 : 19 : 4  
 and from the custom-house in Edinburgh - 30,000 : 0 : 0

Total net revenue of the customs of Great Britain £2,229,105 : 19 : 4

There were coined at the mint in the course of the year  
 78,780 pounds of gold, value - - - - - £3,683,995 : 10 : 0  
 and no silver.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Christmas 1776 to Christmas 1777 was as follows.

| Countries, &c.            | Imported into   |               | Exported from   |              |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                           | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.     | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.    |
| Africa - - -              | £62,740 1 4     |               | £239,218 3 0    |              |
| Canaries - - -            | 3,379 5 2       |               | 18,055 17 8     |              |
| Denmark and Norway        | 103,547 10 7    | £25,015 2 7   | 202,903 3 6     | £11,220 11 7 |
| East country - -          | 403,166 7 1     |               | 85,521 10 2     |              |
| East-India - - -          | 1,834,221 14 0  |               | 785,823 2 3     |              |
| Flanders - - -            | 138,280 11 4    |               | 944,267 4 10    |              |
| France - - -              | 71,495 7 2      | 6,062 16 1    | 139,802 0 10    | 53,083 3 10  |
| Germany - - -             | 709,599 6 3     | 33,914 14 7   | 1,323,499 9 10  | 11,305 1 8   |
| Greenland - - -           | 50,337 16 4     | 1,748 3 3     |                 |              |
| Holland - - -             | 581,632 2 11    | 139,758 16 0  | 1,080,644 2 11  | 78,727 1 7   |
| Ireland - - -             | 1,502,893 7 1   | 150,139 9 11  | 1,931,800 14 1  | 269,887 14 1 |
| Mann - - -                | 6,698 6 6       | 246 7 10      | 22,835 3 3      | 846 10 0     |
| Italy - - -               | 774,099 9 9     | 653 5 8       | 846,160 2 4     | 2,775 2 0    |
| Madeira - - -             | 3,323 10 2      | 184 2 6       | 9,261 10 7      |              |
| Minorca - - -             |                 |               |                 | 55 1 10      |
| Poland - - -              |                 | 12,979 1 10   |                 | 858 14 3     |
| Portugal - - -            | 382,708 8 5     | 21,873 1 3    | 554,449 8 2     | 2,021 16 10  |
| Prussia - - -             |                 | 13,805 12 9   |                 | 389 2 10     |
| Russia - - -              | 1,117,315 6 4   | 199,795 14 10 | 203,124 14 11   | 3,267 1 4    |
| Spain - - -               | 533,641 15 11   | 10,369 9 1    | 843,075 4 0     | 11,740 3 6   |
| Gibraltar - - -           |                 | 105 7 7       |                 | 345 2 6      |
| Straits - - -             | 3,600 0 0       |               | 82,003 12 0     |              |
| Sweden - - -              | 206,034 1 11    | 27,484 13 1   | 69,981 6 6      | 2,937 4 1    |
| Turkey - - -              | 225,586 5 4     |               | 177,214 7 0     |              |
| Venice - - -              | 65,892 8 5      |               | 41,665 8 5      |              |
| Guernsey, &c. -           | 49,522 19 1     | 989 16 10     | 60,136 10 7     | 40 0 0       |
| America in general -      |                 | 11,277 2 3    |                 | 256,169 6 0  |
| Hudson's bay - -          | 8,243 4 4       |               | 6,048 4 0       |              |
| Newfoundland - -          | 46,066 12 3     |               | 122,367 17 3    |              |
| Cape Breton - - -         | 567 18 5        |               |                 |              |
| Quebec - - -              | 56,882 3 0      |               | 586,011 5 11    |              |
| Nova-Scotia - - -         | 8,030 5 4       |               | 934,164 3 9     |              |
| New-England - - -         | 1,879 11 6      |               |                 |              |
| New-York - - -            | 8,429 12 3      |               | 57,294 13 6     |              |
| Pennsylvania - - -        | 16 19 1         |               |                 |              |
| Maryland and Virginia     | 58 7 11         |               |                 |              |
| Carolina - - -            | 2,233 19 0      |               |                 |              |
| Florida - - -             | 48,322 5 11     |               | 137,617 9 9     |              |
| West-Indies in general    |                 | 145,796 15 0  |                 | 131,973 17 3 |
| Antigua - - -             | 134,061 13 0    |               | 114,028 0 8     |              |
| Barbados - - -            | 140,137 16 4    |               | 132,081 8 4     |              |
| Bermuda - - -             | 2,069 17 9      |               | 7,239 12 3      |              |
| Dominica - - -            | 177,397 17 5    |               | 47,230 12 0     |              |
| Grenada - - -             | 360,088 12 11   |               | 95,209 17 5     |              |
| Jamaica - - -             | 1,303,289 18 8  |               | 536,574 6 3     |              |
| Montserrat - - -          | 27,336 19 5     |               | 9,514 7 3       |              |
| Nevis - - -               | 45,142 3 0      |               | 12,268 0 9      |              |
| New-Province - -          | 4,808 4 10      |               | 3,619 5 7       |              |
| St. Croix - - -           | 8,685 13 4      |               |                 |              |
| St. Eustathius - -        | 1,632 5 4       |               | 720 10 6        |              |
| St. Christophers - -      | 233,652 5 6     |               | 63,383 17 1     |              |
| St. Thomas - - -          | 4,748 3 2       |               |                 |              |
| St. Vincents - - -        | 130,195 2 11    |               | 40,230 17 0     |              |
| Tobago - - -              | 42,680 7 0      |               | 21,853 1 8      |              |
| Tortola - - -             | 46,945 11 0     |               | 21,427 1 1      |              |
| Honduras bay - - -        | 27,744 7 8      |               | 490 3 4         |              |
| Musquito shore - -        | 5,282 6 1       |               | 1,503 18 6      |              |
| Falkland's islands -      | 5,984 5 0       |               | 196 11 4        |              |
| Prize goods * - -         | 11,721,327 19 1 |               | 12,632,522 2 0  |              |
|                           | 120,249 14 2    |               | 20,841 5 8      |              |
| Imp. and exp. of England  | 11,841,577 13 3 |               | 12,653,363 7 8  |              |
| Imp. and exp. of Scotland | 802,253 12 11   | 802,253 12 11 | 837,042 15 2    | 837,642 15 2 |
| Total, Great Britain -    | 12,643,831 6 2  |               | 13,491,006 2 10 |              |

\* No prize goods appear by the custom-house books to have been brought to account before this year.

1778—After the declaration of independence the Congress of the United States of America sent plenipotentiaries to several of the European courts to assure them of their determination to support their independence, to solicit the assistance of Germany, France, Spain, and Prussia; and in particular to propose to France a participation of the trade between the United States and the West-India islands; and to concert with France and Spain an arrangement for the division of the conquests to be attempted by the arms of the proposed alliance. According to the plan proposed by them, Nova Scotia, Cape-Breton, and the half of Newfoundland (Canada is not mentioned) were to be annexed to the United States; the other half of Newfoundland, with a participation of the fishery in all the adjacent seas, was to be secured to France, Britain being totally excluded; and the British West-India islands, to be reduced by the united forces of France and America, were to belong entirely to France. Spain was to have only the town of Pensacola; and the free navigation of the Mississippi was to be reserved to the Americans.

Though the French were exceedingly eager to enjoy the trade with America (of their success in which, as we have already seen, they had little reason to boast) the government, not being sufficiently prepared for war, or perhaps not fully determined how to act\*, were very reserved and dilatory in formally acknowledging the independent sovereignty of the United States, while remonstrances on our side upon their partiality to the Americans, and temporizing answers on theirs, spun out the time till the French Newfoundland fleet got safe into their ports, and their marine forces were brought to a state fit for the commencement of hostilities: and then a treaty of friendship and commerce, and another of alliance, with the United States of America were signed on the same day at Paris (6<sup>th</sup> February).

By the first of these treaties

Articles 2, 3, 4.) The contracting powers engaged to treat each other as the most favoured nation in all commercial arrangements, in payments of duties, and in all privileges and immunities, in the ports of the French dominions in Europe, and in those of the United States.

6, 7) The king of France engaged to protect the vessels and effects of the Americans in his ports, and on his coasts; and that his ships of war should protect the American traders upon the Ocean, so far as they should keep company with his ships. And the United States promised equal protection to the vessels and effects of the French.

8) The king promised to use his interest with the emperor of Morocco and the other piratical Moorish governments of Africa, to abstain from molesting the American trade.

9) Both parties agreed to abstain from the fishing grounds belonging

\* There is good reason to believe that the king was dragged into the war, against his own judgment, by those about him.

to the other, provided no other nation should have the indulgence, which they hereby agreed to withhold from each-other.

10) The French were to retain all the rights to the Newfoundland fishery, conferred upon them by the treaties of Utrecht and Paris.

11) The subjects of either power were to enjoy all the privileges of subjects, and be exempted from the burthens imposed upon aliens, in the dominions of the other.

29) Either power had the right of maintaining consuls, vice-consuls, agents and commissaries in the ports of the other.

30) The king of France promised to allow the Americans one or more free ports in Europe, to which they might bring all the commodities of the thirteen states, and also the free ports already opened in his West-India islands.

The other articles are filled with regulations for the examination of vessels bound to the ports of powers at war with either of the contracting powers, and for passports to protect their vessels in case of such a war, an enumeration of the goods to be considered as contraband and liable to confiscation, regulations for prizes taken by the cruisers of either power, for the treatment of wrecked vessels, &c.

By the other treaty it was provided, that 'in case Great Britain in 'resentment of that connection and good correspondence, which is the 'object of the said treaty [of commerce] should break the peace with 'France, either by direct hostilities, or by hindering her commerce 'and navigation,' his Majesty and the United states should make it a common cause, and aid each-other with their councils and forces, in order to maintain effectually the absolute and unlimited independence and sovereignty of the United states. The northern parts of America and the Bermuda islands, if conquered by the allied powers, were to be annexed to the United states; and any of the islands in, or near, the Gulf of Mexico, to be taken from Great Britain, were to belong to France. Neither party was to make peace without first obtaining the consent of the other, nor without an express acknowledgement from Great Britain of the independence of the United states. And both agreed to fulfil the conditions of the treaty without any claim for compensation on either side, and to admit into the alliance any other powers, who might have received injuries from England. Such were the first of the treaties between powers separated by the Atlantic ocean; treaties, which were in a short time to spread the flames of war from America to every quarter of the globe.

March 13<sup>th</sup>—The French government, having now decisively chosen their ground, in a few weeks sent a declaration to the British court, giving notice of the treaty of friendship and commerce with the United states of America, but without saying a word of the treaty of alliance; professing, nevertheless, a determination to cultivate the good understanding sub-

sisting between France and Great Britain, and hoping his Britannic Majesty would equally avoid every thing that might tend to interrupt their harmony. The declaration concluded, however, with an assurance, that the king of France was determined to protect the lawful commerce of his subjects, and to maintain the dignity of his flag, and had in consequence taken eventual measures in concert with the United States.

Immediately after this declaration, which was virtually a declaration of war, the British ambassador was recalled from France, and the French ambassador left London. The French laid an embargo on all ships in their ports, and, in return, an embargo was laid on all the French ships in the ports of Great Britain, which were, however, very few, most of them, in apprehension of such a measure, having previously sailed.

February 11<sup>th</sup>—In a committee of the house of lords upon the state of the nation, the losses sustained by the war with America were stated as follows.

There were 733 vessels taken by the Americans, of which 47 had been released, and 127 retaken. The value of the remaining 559 appeared, from the examination of merchants, to be at least £2,600,000: and the loss in salvage; interest on the value of the cargoes, and loss of markets, on the retaken ships must have amounted to a very considerable sum. Of 200 ships, annually employed in the African trade before the commencement of the war, there were not now above 40, whereby there was a deficiency of 160 ships, which, valued on an average at £9,000 each, made a diminution of £1,440,000 annually in that one branch of trade\*. Insurance to the West-Indies and North America was raised from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 per cent with convoy, and to 15 per cent, if without convoy and unarmed, though in general no insurance at all could be made on ships in such circumstances. Seamen's wages were raised from £ 1 10 0 to £ 3 5 0 per month;

Potatoes, - - - 0 8 0 - 3 10 0 per cwt;

Sperma-ceti oil, - - 35 0 0 - 70 0 0 per tun;

Tar, - - - 0 7 0 - 1 10 0 per barrel;

and sugars, and other West-India commodities, as well as all kinds of naval stores from North America, greatly advanced. The number of American privateers, of which authentic accounts were received, was 173, which carried 2,556 guns, and near 14,000 men. Of these 34 were taken, which carried 3,217 men.

In order to comfort the nation for these losses, it was urged on the other hand, that the losses of the British merchants were not so great as

\* With great deference to the high authority, from which this statement is derived, it may here be observed from later and more correct accounts, that in the year 1771, when the African trade was at its greatest height, the ships fitted out for it from Britain were only 192, that the ships in the

year 1777 (the year to which the statement must be supposed to refer) were 58, and that the cargoes of such ships, on an average of several years, were under £4,900. The numbers of ships, &c. will be stated more fully under the year 1783.

they were said to be, and that those of the Americans were still greater; that 904 vessels had been taken from them, which at the very moderate valuation of £2,000 each, would amount to £1,808,000\*; and if to that sum the value of the fisheries, of which the Americans were now deprived †, were added, it would appear that this country was already benefited £2,200,000 by the war, and that the *advantages* flowing from the war would be still greater in future.

March—The permission to employ foreign seamen onboard merchant ships, in a proportion not exceeding three fourths of their whole complement, was prolonged till the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1779. [18 Geo. III, c. 6.]

The mercantile city of Bristol, which had hitherto been without a theatre-royal, had now one licenced by parliament. [18 Geo. III, c. 8.]

In a few days after the treaties with America had been concluded at Paris, a conciliatory plan was proposed in parliament, which, it was hoped, would detach the Americans from their new allies, and induce them to return to a connection with the mother country, which should be much more favourable to them than their former condition. In pursuance of this measure, the act [14 Geo. III, c. 45] for altering the constitution of the province of Massachuset's bay was totally repealed. [18 Geo. III, c. 11.]

And the British legislature now declared, that 'the king and parliament of Great Britain will not impose any duty, tax, or assessment whatever, payable in any of his Majesty's colonies, provinces, and plantations, in North America or the West-Indies; except only such

\* This reasoning puts one in mind of the story of the attorney, who, when his client complained that he was reduced to his last guinea by his law suit, comforted him with the assurance that his adversary was reduced to his last farthing. But, granting that the ruin of fisherman, merchants, and ship-owners, in America were an advantage to this nation, it was surely no recompense to the individual sufferers in Britain; nor could the value of the American prizes be near so high as it was calculated. None of them were of very great value; and a very great proportion of them were small sloops and schooners, worth less than £500 for vessel and cargo. As to the fisheries, that of Newfoundland and Labrador was scarcely at all increased by the expulsion of the Americans from it, because men could not be found to catch the quantity of fish, which the American fishermen used to catch: the Southern whale fishery, being yet in its infancy, produced but a mere trifle; nor does it at all follow, that if there had been no war, that fishery could have remained exclusively in the hands of the Americans, as it cannot be supposed that the British merchants would have abstained from it merely in complaisance to them.

† The most important consequence of the expulsion of the American fishermen from their proper employment was, that almost all the men, and all the fast-sailing vessels, were immediately, and of necessity, employed in privateering: and the consequence of that was, that 1,095 British vessels, and the cargoes of 13 more, were in the course of the war carried into the fishing ports of Boston, Salem, Beverly, Newbury-port, Marble-head, Gloucester, Haverhill, and Ipswich, in the middle district of Massachuset's bay, as appears by the records of the maritime court, besides what were carried into other ports, and those that were retaken, which are estimated to have been above half as many as were carried into port by the captors. At least 550 sail were computed to have been taken by the privateers belonging to the other two districts of Massachuset's bay; and those belonging to the fishing ports of the other New-England governments were equally successful in destroying the British commerce. Infinitely better had it been for the British merchants, if the hostilities of those men and vessels had still been directed against whales and cods. [See *Coxe's View of the United States of America*, p. 345.]



'duties as it may be expedient to impose for the regulation of commerce; the net produce of such duties to be always paid and applied to and for the use of the colony, province, or plantation, in which the same shall be respectively levied, in such manner as other duties collected by the authority of the respective general courts, or general assemblies of such colonies, provinces, or plantations, are ordinarily paid and applied.' The duty payable upon tea in North America (by act 7 *Geo. III*, c. 46) was also repealed [18 *Geo. III*, c. 12.]

Moreover parliament empowered the king to appoint five commissioners to go to America, and there to treat with *any persons whatsoever* concerning the redress of any grievances existing, or supposed to exist, in the government of the colonies, or the laws of this country respecting them, and concerning any aid to be furnished by any of the colonies for the common defence of this realm and the dominions thereunto belonging. Those commissioners were authorized to order a cessation of hostilities, to suspend the operation of any law relating to America passed since the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 1763, to grant pardons, and to establish government in the king's name. [18 *Geo. III*, c. 13.]

In consequence of this act five commissioners were appointed (April 13<sup>th</sup>), who finding the congress firmly determined against entering into any negotiation with them, which should tend to establish a dependence of the colonies upon Great Britain, soon returned home.

A new act was passed, permitting the exportation of limited quantities of corn, &c. for the use of the fisheries at Newfoundland, Nova-Scotia, and Labrador, from the following ports, viz. \*

|                         | Wheat-flour, | Peas,    | Biscuit,  |
|-------------------------|--------------|----------|-----------|
| London, - - - -         | 1,400 qrs.   | 900 qrs. | 850 tuns. |
| Bristol, - - - -        | 900          | 800      | 800       |
| Poole, - - - -          | 3,200        | 1,300    | 1,400     |
| Dartmouth, - - - -      | 2,450        | 950      | 1,000     |
| Topsham and Teignmouth, | 2,400        | 1,200    | 1,100     |
| Barnstaple, - - - -     | 400          | 150      | 150       |
| Liverpool, - - - -      | 300          | 150      | 150       |
| Weymouth, - - - -       | 200          | 120      | 60        |
| Chester, - - - -        | 300          | 120      | 100       |

[18 *Geo. III*, c. 16.]

The duty of one halfpenny on every chaldron of coals shipped at Newcastle and Sunderland, imposed for the improvement of the harbour of Scarborough, and also some duties on the trade of that port imposed

\* The specification of these quantities of provisions may serve to show the proportion of the fishing trade of each of the towns.

for the same purpose, were prolonged for twenty years, to be computed from 24<sup>th</sup> June 1783. [18 *Geo. III*, c. 20.]

Six millions were raised by a loan, for which the subscribers received a permanent interest of £3, together with a terminable annuity of £2:10:0 for thirty years, or, in the option of the subscribers, for life, for every £100 paid in; with a privilege to the subscriber of £500 to have four tickets at £10 each in a lottery, by which the further sum of £480,000 was to be raised. And, in order to guard against the many frauds and abuses practised in the negotiation of lottery tickets, it was now enacted, that office-keepers selling shares of tickets, which they were not possessed of, should suffer three months imprisonment, and pay a fine of £500\*; that every office-keeper should pay £50 for a licence, to be in force for one year; that no smaller share of a ticket than a sixteenth should be sold†; that all shares of tickets should be stamped by an officer appointed by the lords of the treasury: and all schemes grafted upon the lottery were declared unlawful, and prohibited‡. [18 *Geo. III*, c. 22.] In consequence of this act the number of dealers in lottery tickets was reduced to fifty-one for all England; whereas in the preceding year there were above four hundred lottery offices in and about London only. There was still, however, much room left for reform in lottery transactions.

April 16<sup>th</sup>—Tobacco, which had been exported from Britain, was allowed to be re-imported in the original package, if not manufactured, though it had been sold abroad, paying duty as on the first importation: and tobacco, produced in the island of Dominica, was admitted to entry on the same terms as tobacco produced in North America. [18 *Geo. III*, c. 24.]

By an act for imposing duties on dwelling houses, the warehouses and other buildings erected for carrying on manufactures or trades were exempted from the duties. [18 *Geo. III*, c. 26.]

\* When such tickets proved blanks, their price was clear profit to the office-keepers: and, as on the other hand they thereby obliged themselves to pay the prizes out of their own pockets, the adventurers sometimes saw the cup of their good fortune dashed from their lips, when they thought themselves sure of it. One office-keeper at York became bankrupt for a large sum, in consequence of having sold several copies of one number, which unfortunately for him, and indeed for all concerned, came up a prize of £20,000.

† Before this regulation took place, sixty-fourth shares were sold in every office, which brought a lottery adventure within the reach of all, who could by any means command five shillings. And there was at least one office in the year 1777 (whose advertisement upon the cover of a magazine is now

before me) that offered three-hundredth shares at one shilling each.

‡ Besides miniature lotteries with shilling tickets, there were tickets issued by publishers of lady's pocket books, almanacks, song books, and magazines, who all had agents all over the three kingdoms, and also by bakers, dealers in potatoes, penny-barbers, &c. promising certain sums to their customers, if their numbers should turn out considerable prizes in the lottery. But all these projectors wisely excluded the small and middling prizes (almost the whole in point of number) as beneath the attention of the adventurers: and accordingly it frequently happened, that their agents in the country towns accounted to them for several hundred tickets, without having one prize to retain for their own neighbours, who had bought the swindling tickets from them.

An additional duty of £8:8:0 per tun was laid on all French wines, and of £4:4:0 per tun on all other wines. [18 *Geo. III*, c. 27.]

The duties, formerly collected for improving the harbour of Rye in Suffex, were continued for twenty-one years. [18 *Geo. III*, c. 32.]

The corporation of the Trinity house was empowered to rebuild and maintain the light-house on the rocks called the Smalls, in S<sup>t</sup>. George's channel, (first erected in the year 1776) and to levy a small tunnage duty on all vessels benefited by the light. [18 *Geo. III*, c. 42.]

Several acts, which were near expiring, were continued, as follows.

The act for granting an allowance on the exportation of British-made gun-powder, continued to 29<sup>th</sup> September 1785.

The act for the encouragement of British-made fail-cloth, continued to 29<sup>th</sup> September 1785\*.

The act for carrying British sugars from the place of their growth in British-built vessels, navigated according to law, directly to foreign parts, continued to 29<sup>th</sup> September 1785.

The act for punishing persons going armed in defiance of the revenue laws, continued to 29<sup>th</sup> September 1785.

The act prohibiting the importation of light silver coin, &c. continued to 1<sup>st</sup> May 1783.

The act for allowing a bounty on flax-seed imported into Ireland, continued to 1<sup>st</sup> January 178c.

The act for the better regulation of pilots conducting vessels into the Thames, continued to 25<sup>th</sup> March 1792.

The act for allowing the exportation of wheat, &c. to the sugar colonies, S<sup>t</sup>. Helena, India, and the fisheries of Newfoundland, &c. continued to 1<sup>st</sup> May 1779. [18 *Geo. III*, c. 45.]

The city of London was empowered by various acts to borrow several sums of money for the purpose of completing some public works, widening streets, and making other improvements. [18 *Geo. III*, cc. 48-51, 71, 73, 77, *et seqq.*]

Among the articles of the expenditure of the public money this year we find £105,227:8:3 for defraying the expense of recoinage the deficient gold money. [18 *Geo. III*, c. 54.]

May 28<sup>th</sup>—When the Navigation act [12 *Car. II*, c. 18] was passed, the advantages secured by it to the national commerce were extended to Ireland as well as to England. But, by a restriction, which was now stigmatized in parliament by Mr. Burke as 'a left-handed policy,' and afterwards by Lord North, as 'narrow prejudice and blind policy,' the Irish were soon deprived of the commercial benefits resulting from this

\* Perhaps we may ascribe to the continued encouragement of those acts the following rapid decrease of the importation of fail-cloth from Russia: there were 11,580 pieces in the year 1774; 6,757 pieces in 1775; 2,659 pieces in 1776; 1,505 pieces in 1777; and 421 pieces in 1778.

famous act, and placed, with respect to commercial liberty, almost in the situation of foreigners. The commercial distresses suffered by Ireland from those restrictions, it was now asserted, had rendered that country incapable of supporting the great expenses attached to the government of it, and called aloud for relief. On the first introduction of a proposal in parliament for the relief of Ireland (April 2<sup>d</sup>) the motion, which was made by administration, had the uncommon good fortune to be also cordially supported by the principal members, and the greatest number; of the opposition, as a measure, not only of justice, but also of prudence and real policy. It was observed, that the restrictions upon the commerce and manufactures of Ireland, which originated in a great degree from a zeal for promoting the prosperity of the favourite woollen manufacture of England, had produced effects diametrically opposite to the intentions of those who planned them, and driven the Irish into a necessity of exporting their wool, in a manner too open to be called clandestine \*, to the rivals of England, who bought it up with the greatest avidity at a higher price than was given by the English manufacturers, and were, notwithstanding, enabled, principally by the cheapness of their living, to undersell us in foreign markets. The business being thus brought into parliament, the further consideration of it was postponed till after the Easter holidays, when, from such an harmonious commencement, it might have been expected to go smoothly through the parliamentary forms: but the event was very different.

During the recess a strong opposition was industriously formed against the Irish bills; and most of the commercial and manufacturing communities in Great Britain, forgetting that reciprocity and competition serve to animate, instead of injuring, commerce and manufactures, especially those intended for foreign consumption, were somehow made to apprehend, that whatever should be granted to the Irish must be taken from them, and were thereupon stirred up to petition strenuously against any indulgence to Ireland, which, they alleged, would be enabled by the low price of labour, and the low rate of taxes †, to undersell and ruin the British manufacturers. In the midst of this bustle and alarm, which infected almost all ranks of people to a degree that posterity would, per-

\* Similar causes produce similar effects. Doctor Anderson was informed in the year 1784, that they had begun to smuggle wool to France from the Western islands of Scotland: and he observes, that all the smuggling trade now carried on in Britain is believed to owe its foundation to the smuggling of wool. He moreover ascribes the degenerated quality of our wool, and several other bad consequences, to the severe laws against the exportation of wool. [*Anderson's Present state of the Hebrides (Western islands)*, p. 121.]

† It was urged that the people of Ireland paid

only 10s each on an average to the revenue, while those of Britain paid £2 each; and thence the Irish could afford to work so much cheaper than British workmen. If as great a proportion of the people were employed in profitable labour as of the people of Britain, that argument might have its full weight; but it needs not be demonstrated, that the payment of 10s may be a greater hardship upon one man, than that of £2 is upon another; and it was well observed by Mr. Burke upon this occasion, that 'taxes must follow wealth, not precede it.'

haps, scarcely credit if it were to be enlarged upon, the city of London had the honour to maintain the superiority of its character, remaining unmoved by the clamour, and taking no concern in opposing the emancipation of Ireland.

Without entering into the question, whether the capacity of executing work cheaper be a sufficient reason for tying up the hands of those, who can furnish a commodity on the lowest terms, in order to tax ourselves \* with a monopoly for the benefit of those, who are already in possession of a manufacture, for which they make the public pay great prices; or into the question, whether the highest prices are not generally given to workmen by those manufacturers, who from the greatness of their capitals, the superiority of their machinery, the privilege, conferred by the greatness of their business, of selecting their customers, and other advantages inseparable from the established possession of a trade, are enabled to undersell their poorer and younger competitors in business; and consequently, whether the proposition, that lower wages will infallibly, and in all cases, produce cheaper goods, be not fallacious; it is sufficient to relate, that after a keen altercation in parliament, and hearing counsel, and examining evidence, on various parts of the business, the friends of Ireland thought proper, at least for the present, to give up some part of their demands; and

The Irish were allowed after the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 1778 to export to the British settlements in America and Africa the produce and manufactures of Ireland, with the exception of wool and woollen manufactures of every sort, cotton manufactures of all sorts mixed or unmixed, hats, glass, hops, gun-powder, and coals. They were also allowed to export all kinds of British goods lawfully imported, except woollen goods and glass; and they were moreover allowed to export foreign goods legally imported by certificate, except linens. But they were prohibited from exporting iron, and iron wares, till the Irish parliament should lay a prescribed duty on them; and they were in like manner enjoined to charge duties and taxes on all their manufactures, equivalent to those paid on similar manufactures of British-fabric, whether on the raw materials or finished goods. Vessels, owned by the Irish, were intitled to receive the bounties for fisheries of every kind; and vessels, built in Ireland, were thenceforth to be considered as British-built vessels. [18 Geo. III, c. 55.]

Cotton yarn, spun in Ireland, was also allowed to be imported into Great Britain free of duty. [18 Geo. III, c. 56.]

All sugars, shipped from any British colony, without a proper certificate of their being the produce of the colony at which they are shipped, were made liable to pay duty as foreign sugars. [18 Geo. III, c. 58.]

\* Only ourselves; for foreigners will pay no attention to our laws, but buy where they can be cheapest served.

A proper harbour on the south side of the Murray firth being much wanted for the protection of vessels navigating the northern seas, and the mouth of the River Findhorn being esteemed a commodious place for that purpose, Mr. Munro of Novar undertook to erect and maintain the necessary buildings, on being empowered by parliament to receive a small duty from vessels using the harbour, and goods landed in it. [18 Geo. III, c. 70.]

June 23<sup>d</sup>—In the light-house at Ipswich a trial was made of a new improvement in the manner of constructing lights for the benefit of vessels at sea, which consists in reflecting the light of a great assemblage of lamps from about a thousand small mirrors; and it was found to produce the appearance of a vast globe of fire, when observed at sea in the night.

The East-India company raised their annual dividend to *eight per cent*, at which rate the Midsummer dividend was paid.

The most anxious apprehensions were entertained for the safety of two fleets of East-India ships, which could not possibly be sufficiently prepared for war, and also of two fleets of West-India ships, now on their way home, which together constituted a great proportion of the British trade, were of a prodigious value, and were all now in danger of running into the arms of the enemy; for the Channel was at this time covered by a French fleet, the frigates of which were very numerous beyond the usual proportion, and very widely dispersed; while the British fleet, commanded by Admiral Keppel, was placed between them and the coast of France. This position of the two fleets, and the prevalence of the westerly winds, might have enabled the French frigates to pick up our ships, even in sight of the British admiral, who would have been unable to go to their assistance. But happily all those apprehensions were removed by the consequences of the engagement between the two fleets, after which the French immediately retreated in the night to the harbour of Brest (July 27<sup>th</sup>): and though they afterwards put to sea again, they still evaded coming to action, and spent the season in cruising on the coast of Spain to no visible purpose. In the meantime Admiral Keppel, having left two ships of the line to protect the homeward-bound trade while he refitted his fleet at Plymouth, was very soon at sea again, and rode triumphant in the Channel during the remainder of the season, whereby the situation of the floating property of the two countries was entirely reversed. All the British ships from every quarter of the world arrived in perfect safety; and a very great number of the French ships fell into the hands of our cruisers\*. Thus the action of the 27<sup>th</sup> of July, though not decisive with respect to the contending

\* The damage suffered by the French commerce on this occasion is estimated by Raynal at from 80 to 100 millions of livres. [Hist. phil. et polit. V. ix, p. 216.]



fleets engaged, was productive of all the beneficial consequences which the most complete victory could have conferred, with respect to the commercial prosperity of this kingdom.

The duty of four and a half per cent on all dead produce shipped from Barbados and the other sugar colonies, except Jamaica and the Ceded islands, having ever since the first commencement of it in the year 1663 been paid in kind, a collector of the customs in one of the islands, in his great regard for the interest of the crown, refused to receive the sugars, &c. as formerly, alleging that the worst produce was given in payment of the duty. The planters thereupon refused to ship any produce; and so the matter rested till the arrival of Admiral Barrington, who carried over orders to receive the produce according to the old established custom.

From the very commencement of the troubles in America the Dutch, as I have already had occasion more than once to observe, had taken every opportunity, compatible with their characteristic national cautiousness, to enter into commercial engagements with the Americans. Soon after the French concluded their treaties with them as independent states, the politics of that nation so far prevailed in Holland, that Mr. Van Berkel; conselor and pensionary of the city of Amsterdam, which is well known to influence the whole Dutch confederacy, commissioned Mr. Neufville, a merchant of that city, to draw up, in concert with Mr. Lee, the commissioner from the American congress, a sketch of a treaty of amity and commerce, in order to establish, as Mr. Neufville expresses it, the union of the *Twenty States*, (i. e. the Dutch seven and the American thirteen) and, as they wished still to keep it secret, those gentlemen met at Aix-la-chapelle, where they signed the treaty (September 4<sup>th</sup>), the substance of which is as follows.

After premising that their connection should be established on the basis of perfect equality and reciprocal utility, and that each party should be at liberty to admit other nations to a participation of the advantages now agreed upon to be mutually enjoyed by the contracting powers, it proceeds to stipulate, that

Article 2) The Dutch should pay only the same duties in the American ports, that the Americans themselves pay, and should also enjoy equal privileges with them, as well in passing between the different states, as when bound to other parts of the world.

3) The Americans should enjoy all the same advantages in the ports of Holland.

4) The subjects of either power were to have perfect freedom to travel in the territories of the other, conforming however, to the laws of the country.

5) The subjects of both should have liberty to import in their vessels all kinds of goods not particularly prohibited; to open warehouses for

disposing of their goods by wholesale; to purchase all kinds of goods not particularly prohibited; and to carry them wherever they pleased.

8, 9) The Dutch engaged to protect the vessels and effects of the Americans in their ports and on their coasts; and that their ships of war should protect the American traders at sea, so far as they should keep company with them. And the United States promised equal protection to the vessels and effects of the Dutch.

10) The Dutch promised to use their interest with the emperor of Morocco, and the other piratical Moorish governments of Africa, to abstain from molesting the American trade.

11—27) The next seventeen articles contain regulations for preserving the property of the deceased; for the conduct of merchants, commanders of vessels and seamen; for examining vessels at sea, and how to proceed with respect to contraband goods; for ships of war and privateers with respect to vessels taken or retaken by them; for the treatment of vessels wrecked, &c.

28) The vessels of either power were at liberty to navigate to and from all ports whatsoever, not excepting those of the enemies of the other power, and freely to carry the property of such enemies, and also their persons, except only their military forces, as passengers.

29) In the enumeration of goods, which might be freely carried by the vessels of either power to a nation at war with the other, excepting only to towns besieged or blocked up, are not only wool, silk, &c. and the goods manufactured from them, gold and silver, corn, and other articles of provisions, but also ship timber, sails, canvases, and whatever is not formed into the shape of warlike weapons.

30) In case of either of the powers being engaged in war, the vessels belonging to the other were to be furnished with annual passports and certificates.

34) Each power agreed to receive consuls, commissaries, &c. appointed by the other.

So very closely was this treaty conducted, that the British ministry got their first knowledge of it by a copy found in the possession of Mr. Laurens; when he was taken at sea in his passage from America for Holland in September 1780.

The island of Dominica, ever since the year 1766, when its harbours of Prince Ruperts bay and Roseau (the name of which General Melville, the first British governor-general, changed to Charlottetown) were declared free ports, had enjoyed a considerable share of commercial prosperity from the resort of French and Spanish vessels, which brought mules, cattle, indigo, cotton, and bullion, in exchange for negroes and British manufactures. Its produce was also considerably increased, though not in the proportion that might be inferred from the custom-house accounts of the imports from it, a great part of which must be allowed to be the produce of foreign islands brought into its free ports.

The situation of it between the French islands of Guadaloupe and Martinique, both in sight, renders it a post of great importance in time of war; and accordingly no pains nor expense were spared in fortifying it. But fortifications and guns are of no avail without men. The whole military force stationed in the island consisted of *six* officers and ninety-four privates, when it was attacked by the marquis de Bouillé, the governor-general of Martinique, (7<sup>th</sup> September) with a large fleet of frigates and privateers, carrying above 2,000 regular troops besides a crowd of volunteers. After a gallant defence by the few soldiers and the British part of the militia (for the French inhabitants disappeared during the attack) the island submitted to the marquis, who granted very liberal terms of capitulation, whereby the inhabitants were allowed to retain their religion and civil government, and all their property on the island of every kind, which privilege was also extended to the absent proprietors.

The neighbouring islands must have immediately followed the fortune of Dominica, had not the opportune arrival of Admiral Barrington protected them, and checked the career of the French for the present.

September, October—The acquisition of Dominica by the French was fully balanced by the heavy losses sustained in their floating commerce in consequence of their fleets relinquishing the protection of it. Among the prizes taken from them about this time, the most important were the *Modeste* from China, loaded chiefly with tea, and valued at £300,000, taken by the *Porcupine* sloop of war; the *Gaston*, also an Indiaman, taken by two privateers of Liverpool, and estimated at £500,000, the most valuable part of the cargo of another India-man, which was wrecked, being onboard her in addition to her own; besides about forty sail of West-India ships with valuable cargoes, estimated on an average worth £15,000 each\*.

In the West-Indies the loss of Dominica might have been fully compensated by the acquisition of S<sup>t</sup>. Lucia. Since the peace of 1763, whereby the possession of that island was confirmed to France, it had been cultivated with considerable success. It contained fifty-three sugar plantations, besides a very great number of settlements in coffee, cacao, and cotton: and its population consisted of 2,300 white people, 1,050 free people of colour, and 16,000 negro slaves. Of the produce exported, amounting to 3,000,000 livres (£133,333 : 6 : 8 sterling) in value, about two thirds went into the hands of the Americans, British, and Dutch, in payment of their commodities and manufactures, and the remainder was sent to Martinique, whence it was shipped for France. But it was supposed capable of raising produce to the amount of nine or ten millions of livres annually, if fully cultivated. Such was the island of S<sup>t</sup>. Lucia, according to the Abbé Raynal, [*V. vii, p. 50*] whose

\* So covered was the sea at this time by British cruisers, that a Lisbon packet was boarded by above forty of them in the course of her short passage.

account of a French colony may be presumed to be correct, when it was reduced (December) by Admiral Barrington and General Meadows: and the amount of its imports to Britain during the war shows, that, if it had remained under the British dominion, a proper application of capital and industry could soon have rendered it one of the most important of our West-India islands after Jamaica.

While these various operations of war were going forward in the West-Indies, the planters and merchants concerned in the prosperity of our sugar colonies made frequent and earnest applications to the ministry for a naval force to be sent for the protection of their property. To these they constantly received palliative answers, but no positive assurance of relief, the whole naval force that could be spared from home service, being, in truth, engrossed by the hostile operations against the American states. So, finding no prospect of help from that quarter, they desisted from further application, after desiring the first lord of the admiralty to remember, that they had discharged the duty they owed to themselves and to the public, by warning him of the great danger to which the vast British capital, employed in the cultivation of the islands, was exposed by the total want of a protecting force, and the hostile preparations going forward in the French and Spanish islands. They next addressed (16<sup>th</sup> December) a petition to the king, as *the constitutional guardian of the property of all his subjects*, wherein they represented to him, that by the privation of the wonted supplies of provisions and lumber from America, the islands were reduced to a scarcity of food almost approaching to famine, and their estates were in absolute want of many articles essentially necessary to their culture, whereby their produce was greatly diminished; that their property to a very great amount had been taken by the enemy upon the seas; that their applications to his ministers had been without effect; that the war of desolation, declared by the commissioners against America, would probably provoke retaliations, in the course of which the unprotected sugar islands might be ruined, even by a small armament, conducted by people perfectly well acquainted with every part of them; and that such calamities must greatly affect his revenue and maritime power, and also the manufactures, commerce, and wealth, of his subjects in general.

In the meantime the Dutch were in great hopes, that, by virtue of their professed neutrality they should be enabled to recover their former pre-eminence as the general carriers and factors of Europe. But great numbers of their vessels being seized by the British cruisers, as having French property and naval stores onboard, the Dutch merchants and owners of vessels made heavy complaints to the States-general, that their ships loaded with masts, planks, hemp, and other articles from the Baltic, and even ships loaded with other kinds of goods, bound to France, were seized and carried into British ports. In consequence of their complaints the Dutch ambassador at London presented a me-

morial to the king, wherein he remonstrated against the detention of their vessels, and demanded their release (September 28<sup>th</sup>). In reply, the earl of Suffolk informed him, that the king had given orders, that all the Dutch vessels loaded with unexceptionable cargoes should be released, and the naval commanders should be directed not to interrupt their *lawful commerce*; and that the naval stores, which were seized, should be paid for at a fair valuation, together with the freight, and a reasonable allowance for expenses and damages (October 19<sup>th</sup>).

Notwithstanding the flattering picture of the profits and advantages accruing to the nation from the war, drawn by some speakers in parliament in the beginning of this year, the calamities inseparable from a state of warfare, which the bustle of preparations at the commencement of it had in a great measure kept out of sight, and the rapid fortunes made by those, who were drawing great emoluments out of the national purse, had varnished over with an imposing glare of prosperity, were now too generally and severely felt by the commercial part of the community in the loss of their vessels, and the derangement and ruin of their trade. Hence the number of bankruptcies this year rose to the unprecedented number of 675, of which there were 83 in the one month of November; considerably more than twice as many as there were in a year at the beginning of this century: and the excess would be still greater, if we could compare the amount, as well as the number, of the bankruptcies at the beginning of the century with those of this year. It has been assumed as a maxim, that a great number of bankruptcies is a proof of the greatness of commerce, and that the increase of the one keeps pace with the extension of the other. But the events of this year furnish at least one exception to that rule; for the exports of it appear to be above five millions short of those of the year 1774, during which there were only 360 bankruptcies\*: and a considerable part of the goods now exported were carried, not into the ports they were consigned to, but into American and French ports, by prize-masters. This year the legislative assembly of Jamaica granted an exclusive patent to Mr. Samuel Sainthill for introducing the use of clarifiers in the process of boiling sugar †.

For ages after the discovery of the art of printing there was no person in this country capable of making good types for the printers, and they continued to be imported from Holland, Germany, &c. till Caslon arose, who first attempted with success to make elegant types: and those of his manufacture soon obtained such a character, that the continent

\* See Mr. Chalmers's Table of bankruptcies during this century in his *Estimate of the comparative strength of Great Britain*, p. xlvii, ed. 1794.

† For a description of the clarifier, and the use of it, the reader is referred to the *History of the West-Indies*, V. ii, p. 225, ed. 1794, by Mr. Edwards, who ascribes the original merit of the im-

provement to his friend John Proculus Baker Esq<sup>r</sup>, whose *Essay on the art of making muscovado sugar*, published in the year 1775, he says, is 'a performance, that, for useful knowledge, lucid order, and elegance, both in arrangement and composition, would have done honour to the first writer of the age.' 2



of Europe, instead of supplying us with that most important article, imported the types of his founding. Mr. William Caslon, who survived his father about twenty years, and died this year, carried the art to still higher perfection. But he was not the only man, who improved upon his father's art, which soon spread into various parts of these kingdoms, and was carried to great perfection, especially by Mr. John Baskerville \* of Birmingham and Messieurs Foulis of Glasgow: and it is likely to flourish as long as a taste for literature shall continue to adorn the nation. It is owing to the improvements of those friends of their country, that printed books come now to be considered as an important British manufacture, and constitute a very great article of exportation.

The British and French imports at Hamburgh and Bremen in the course of this year were as follows.

|   | Hamburgh.       | Bremen.      |
|---|-----------------|--------------|
| From Great Britain, Ireland, }<br>and the British West-Indies } | £1,125,426 16 0 | £182,906 3 0 |
| from France - - -   | 810,217 14 0    | 211,412 12 0 |

The cargoes carried from the British dominions to Hamburgh employed 131 vessels, whereof 87 were British. The imports from France to the same city employed 143 vessels, of which *only two* were French.

This is the first time for several years that the British imports at Hamburgh exceeded those of the French, who thus appear to have begun immediately to feel in their commerce the effects of the war, they very wantonly plunged themselves into. Unfortunately in such cases the authors of the war are exempted from feeling the calamity, which falls entirely upon those, who had no hand in the pernicious policy whereby they are ruined.

It may be observed, as a proof of the increasing opulence, as well as luxury, of the kingdom (for luxury cannot exist without opulence) that the duty upon coaches, which in the year 1774 produced £42,000, arose this year to the sum of £117,000; whence it appears, that 23,000 coaches were now kept. The increase of coaches was not, however, quite in proportion to the increase of the duty, because additional duties were laid on in the year 1776.

The East-India company had not been wanting in their preparations for the expected war with France. So prompt, decisive, and secret, were their measures, and so peculiarly fortunate were they in a rapid conveyance of their dispatches, that their forces appear to have attacked the French factories at Chandernagore, Yaman, Karical, and Masulipatam, and taken some French vessels in the Ganges, so early as the beginning of July. Afterwards their troops under the command of Gen.

\* After the death of Mr. Baskerville in the year 1775 his heirs wished to dispose of his types; and, strange to tell, they could not find a purchaser for them in Britain. At length they were sold for £3,700 to a literary society in Paris,

where, it is said, they have expended a hundred thousand pounds (Quere, if French, or British, money?) in printing the works of Voltaire. [Hutton's *Hist. of Birmingham*, p. 123, ed. 1795.]



eral Munro, in conjunction with the few British ships of war in those seas, commanded by Sir Edward Vernon, reduced Pondicherry, the chief settlement of the French, after a siege of nine weeks (16<sup>th</sup> October). By these events the power and commerce of the French were extinguished in India.

The following is an account of the net produce, in French money, of the public sales at L'Orient of merchandize imported by the subjects of France, who engaged in the East-India trade after the suspension of the French East-India company in the year 1769\*.

| Years. | Merchandize imported from |      |            |      |                                  |       | Total sales of the year. |      |  |
|--------|---------------------------|------|------------|------|----------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|------|--|
|        | India.                    |      | China.     |      | the isles of France and Bourbon. |       |                          |      |  |
| 1771   | £3,256,620                | 2 5  | £5,173,712 | 13 4 | £1,906,171                       | 8 11  | £10,336,504              | 4 8  |  |
| 1772   | 9,180,129                 | 17 3 | 4,699,843  | 2 7  | 1,468,173                        | 16 10 | 15,348,146               | 16 8 |  |
| 1773   | 8,711,734                 | 9 11 | 5,822,047  | 18 0 | 650,128                          | 15 6  | 15,183,911               | 3 5  |  |
| 1774   | 8,475,691                 | 14 4 | 8,575,808  | 7 5  | 563,904                          | 14 3  | 17,615,404               | 16 0 |  |
| 1775   | 10,906,218                | 17 1 | 10,912,593 | 12 0 | 507,769                          | 11 6  | 22,326,582               | 0 7  |  |
| 1776   | 19,402,422                | 1 10 | 6,504,327  | 17 6 | 1,019,329                        | 16 8  | 26,926,079               | 16 0 |  |
| 1777   | 16,616,961                | 14 6 | 10,110,327 | 4 0  | 782,473                          | 14 0  | 27,509,764               | 12 6 |  |
| 1778   | 9,561,869                 | 19 0 | 4,800,303  | 5 6  | 164,021                          | 14 0  | 14,026,194               | 18 6 |  |
|        | 86,111,648                | 16 4 | 56,098,963 | 15 4 | 7,061,995                        | 11 8  | 149,272,588              | 3 4  |  |

There belonged this year to all the ports  
of England 7,368 vessels of the reputed burthen of 606,150 tuns,  
and of Scotland 1,617 - - - - 94,915

Total 8,985

701,065

There were entered this year at all the ports of Great Britain, from and to foreign countries, including repeated voyages,

|         | British. |         | Foreign. |         | Total.   |         |
|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
|         | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.   |
| Inward  | 6,378    | 701,735 | 1,742    | 199,365 | 8,120    | 901,100 |
| Outward | 7,687    | 732,558 | 798      | 93,778  | 8,485    | 826,336 |

The net amount of the customs, including the West-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the course of this year, was

from the custom-house in London - - £2,142,681 2 0  
and from the custom-house in Edinburgh - - 20,000 0 0

Total net revenue of the customs of Great Britain £2,162,681 2 0

There were coined at the mint in the course of the year  
7,500 pounds of gold, value - - £350,437 10 0  
and no silver.

\* This account is taken from Raynal, who may be depended upon for his statements of French commercial accounts; as the old government of France, while they involved all matters of finance in impenetrable mystery, did not suppress, nor lock up, official accounts of commercial transactions.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Christmas 1777 to Christmas 1778 was as follows.

| Countries, &c.            | Imported into    |               |  | Exported from  |              |  |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------------|--|----------------|--------------|--|
|                           | ENGLAND.         | SCOTLAND.     |  | ENGLAND.       | SCOTLAND.    |  |
| Africa                    | £81,951 16 4     |               |  | £154,086 1 10  |              |  |
| Canaries                  | 4,901 19 0       |               |  | 81,840 13 4    |              |  |
| Denmark and Norway        | 88,819 4 11      | £20,189 1 5   |  | 163,655 10 0   | £6,289 12 5  |  |
| East country              | 310,306 8 5      |               |  | 73,110 3 6     |              |  |
| East-India                | 1,526,130 10 7   |               |  | 1,199,827 12 4 |              |  |
| Flanders                  | 71,355 15 2      |               |  | 1,077,982 17 3 |              |  |
| France                    | 23,260 14 2      | 6,145 5 8     |  | 29,411 16 7    |              |  |
| Germany                   | 588,198 14 0     | 10,383 4 7    |  | 1,214,929 19 7 | 3,881 15 5   |  |
| Greenland                 | 35,358 11 0      | 2,750 0 0     |  | 258 12 0       |              |  |
| Holland                   | 346,357 18 9     | 107,434 17 0  |  | 1,390,174 7 5  | 78,665 2 11  |  |
| Ireland                   | 1,360,688 7 11   | 121,468 17 10 |  | 1,470,671 18 2 | 345,960 14 2 |  |
| Mann                      | 12,128 8 10      | 180 6 10      |  | 25,779 1 4     | 296 14 8     |  |
| Italy                     | 395,742 12 6     | 1,917 11 7    |  | 555,632 18 8   |              |  |
| Madeira                   | 1,593 16 8       |               |  | 23,083 0 9     |              |  |
| Majorca                   |                  | 648 12 6      |  |                |              |  |
| Poland                    |                  | 9,989 6 3     |  |                | 578 6 9      |  |
| Portugal                  | 340,576 14 9     | 25,264 10 0   |  | 430,936 16 2   | 182 1 8      |  |
| Prussia                   |                  | 11,950 18 7   |  |                |              |  |
| Russia                    | 987,674 7 11     | 115,565 18 5  |  | 194,915 18 2   | 7,818 11 9   |  |
| Spain                     | 415,702 1 2      | 9,427 18 7    |  | 980,352 18 1   | 3,849 16 11  |  |
| Gibraltar                 |                  | 0 1 8         |  |                |              |  |
| Straits                   | 2,176 7 2        |               |  | 70,568 3 9     |              |  |
| Sweden                    | 223,155 12 11    | 18,541 13 5   |  | 82,282 14 1    | 1,221 14 2   |  |
| Turkey                    | 148,919 1 6      |               |  | 50,128 19 11   |              |  |
| Venice                    | 53,409 16 10     |               |  | 31,063 9 10    |              |  |
| Guernsey, &c.             | 49,145 18 8      | 1,952 19 9    |  | 54,586 4 6     | 725 0 0      |  |
| America in general        |                  | 32,891 4 6    |  |                | 120,542 8 8  |  |
| Hudson's bay              | 6,589 10 1       |               |  | 8,196 13 11    |              |  |
| Newfoundland              | 45,550 14 7      |               |  | 133,577 13 1   |              |  |
| Cape Breton               |                  |               |  | 42 0 0         |              |  |
| Quebec                    | 73,430 4 6       |               |  | 555,061 1 5    |              |  |
| Nova Scotia               | 5,329 18 4       |               |  | 332,1561 0 0   |              |  |
| New England               | 371 14 1         |               |  |                |              |  |
| New York                  | 16,192 4 1       |               |  | 26,449 2 8     |              |  |
| Pennsylvania              | 56 5 0           |               |  | 7,537 6 7      |              |  |
| Carolina                  | 1,073 18 9       |               |  |                |              |  |
| Florida                   | 48,236 7 7       |               |  | 64,165 8 1     |              |  |
| West-Indies in general    |                  | 243,951 14 6  |  |                | 132,808 5 1  |  |
| Antigua                   | 160,635 7 7      |               |  | 107,344 12 8   |              |  |
| Barbados                  | 80,008 8 0       |               |  | 106,641 4 1    |              |  |
| Bermuda                   | 4,130 1 1        |               |  | 14,584 10 8    |              |  |
| Dominica                  | 162,408 10 8     |               |  | 31,813 5 3     |              |  |
| Grenada                   | 374,689 9 3      |               |  | 85,829 3 3     |              |  |
| Jamaica                   | 1,372,677 1 4    |               |  | 486,870 4 6    |              |  |
| Montserrat                | 45,725 3 1       |               |  | 8,893 16 6     |              |  |
| Nevis                     | 73,626 7 11      |               |  | 20,020 12 2    |              |  |
| St. Eustathius            | 2,093 15 1       |               |  | 1,453 10 0     |              |  |
| St. Christophers          | 223,690 13 9     |               |  | 75,544 15 0    |              |  |
| St. Thomas                | 404 8 7          |               |  |                |              |  |
| St. Vincents              | 112,252 4 4      |               |  | 25,914 18 9    |              |  |
| Tobago                    | 95,284 17 5      |               |  | 22,833 5 6     |              |  |
| Tortola                   | 61,840 0 6       |               |  | 32,305 15 7    |              |  |
| Bay of Honduras           | 44,003 14 0      |               |  | 1,174 14 9     |              |  |
| Musquito shore            | 6,620 19 6       |               |  | 3,935 2 10     |              |  |
| Southern fishery          | 2,049 10 0       |               |  |                |              |  |
|                           | 10,086,536 8 3   |               |  | 11,507,525 4 6 |              |  |
| Prize goods               | 206,707 9 8      |               |  | 43,544 18 0    |              |  |
| Imp. and exp. of England  | 10,293,243 17 11 |               |  | 11,551,070 2 6 |              |  |
| Imp. and exp. of Scotland | 740,654 3 1      | 740,654 3 1   |  | 702,820 4 7    | 702,820 4 7  |  |
| Total Great Britain       | 11,033,898 1 0   |               |  | 12,253,890 7 1 |              |  |

1779, February 5<sup>th</sup>—There being a great scarcity of Italian organzined silk, which is indispensibly necessary for the warp in silk manufactures, the importation of the proper kinds of it, from any port, and in any vessels whatsoever, was permitted till twenty days after the commencement of the next session of parliament: and it was ordered, that all silk, imported in consequence of this permission, should be entered in the custom-house at London, wherever it might be landed. [19 *Geo. III*, c. 9.]

March 16<sup>th</sup>—The permission to navigate merchant ships with foreign seamen for three fourths of their complements was continued till the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1780. [19 *Geo. III*, c. 14.]

Seven millions were raised this year by a loan, for which the subscribers received a permanent interest of £3, together with a terminable annuity of £3:15:0 for twenty-nine years, or in their option for life, for every £100 paid in; with a privilege to the subscriber of £1000 to have seven tickets at £10 each in a lottery, by which the further sum of £490,000 was to be raised. [19 *Geo. III*, c. 18.]

April 1<sup>st</sup>—Several acts which were near expiring, were continued for limited times, as follows.

The act 8 *Geo. I*, &c. for encouraging the importation of lumber, &c. from the British colonies in America, continued to 29<sup>th</sup> September 1785.

The act permitting rum to be landed before the excise duty is paid down, continued to 29<sup>th</sup> September 1785.

The act permitting the importation of tallow, lard, and grease, free of duty, continued to 25<sup>th</sup> March 1782.

The act for regulating the fees of custom-house officers in America, continued to 1<sup>st</sup> August 1782.

The act permitting the exportation of wheat, &c. to the sugar islands, East-India, Newfoundland, &c. continued to 1<sup>st</sup> May 1780.

And at the same time rum, or spirits of the produce of the British sugar colonies, shipped as stores onboard vessels bound to foreign countries, in casks containing not less than 100 gallons, was allowed the same drawback of duty, as if shipped as merchandize. [19 *Geo. III*, c. 22.]

A new duty of five per cent on the former duties of customs and excise was laid on all articles liable to them, with some few exceptions. [19 *Geo. III*, c. 25.]

The adventurers in the herring fishery on the west coast of Scotland were so much distressed by the increased prices of barrels, salt, naval stores, and seamen's wages, these articles having advanced since the commencement of the war from 100 to 400 per cent, that the business had been rapidly declining since the year 1776\*. But these were not

\* For its increase after the commencement of the reduced bounty, regularly paid, see above, p. 595. Campbelltown, the chief rendezvous of the fishery, was raised by it from having only 4 small vessels and 3,000 or 4,000 inhabitants in the year 1750, to the possession of 62 stout vessels carrying

the only obstructions to the success of that important nursery of seamen, and source of opulence. The act, [11 *Geo. III, c. 31*] by which the bounty was reduced to thirty shillings per tun, obliged the busses to be at the place of rendezvous *on or before* the 22<sup>d</sup> of June for the summer fishing, and *on or before* the 1<sup>st</sup> of October for the winter fishing. And, as if the restrictions of the act had not been sufficiently oppressive, the officers of the revenue at Edinburgh declared, by a very astonishing construction of the act, that, if they sailed before the 22<sup>d</sup> of June, or 1<sup>st</sup> of October, they should forfeit all title to the bounty, for that the words *on or before* must be understood to mean *on AND NOT before* \*. The owners of the busses, after having in vain remonstrated with the commissioners upon the obvious meaning of the words, applied for redress to parliament, who, as the former act for the bounty was now expired; continued the same bounty of thirty shillings per tun for seven years more, to be computed from the 22<sup>d</sup> of October 1778, and left it to the fishers to be at the rendezvous at any time between the 1<sup>st</sup> of August and the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. To the former places of rendezvous there were now also added Stornoway in the island of Lewis, and Stranrawer in the south-west corner of Scotland †. [19 *Geo. III, c. 26.*]

An embargo had been laid in the year 1776 on the exportation of salted provisions from Ireland, in the apprehension of the French furnishing themselves with a stock of Irish provisions for victualing their fleets in the impending war; and it was still in force. The French fleets, however, were not disappointed of provisions. Neither did the French West-India islands suffer any inconvenience from the want of Irish provisions, the American market being open to them. But it was a grievous, and a ruinous, disappointment to the Irish to have their stores filled with beef, pork, butter, &c. which were perishing on their hands. Their discontent was almost converted into indignation by a belief, which prevailed very generally among them, that the measure did not originate from the professed motive, but from a design of giving enormous lucrative contracts to ministerial favourites. Neither was the

750 men, and a population of above 7,000 inhabitants in the year 1777. But that increase is a small object, in point of national utility, when compared with the increase of seamen produced by the bounty, it being calculated, that two thirds of the seamen who man the shipping of the Clyde, besides a considerable proportion of those in the vessels belonging to Liverpool, Bristol, and even London, and great numbers in the navy, have been bred in that fishery.

\* Though I have myself seen, and also suffered by, as gross perversions of law, yet I think it necessary to support my account, of what may seem improbable, by saying, that this strange misconception is positively asserted in the printed *Memoir of the adventurers of the British white herring*

*fishery*, whence it is extracted by that zealous friend of the fisheries, Mr. John Knox, whose *View of the British empire* may be consulted by the reader, who wishes to see a fuller account of the nature of the fisheries, and the hardships that prevent their success, than my bounds will admit of.

† But experience has proved, that even these relaxed restrictions are incompatible with the success of the fishery, which without any limitation of time or place, should be free to follow the shoals of the herrings, which, as Mr. Knox has well observed, *pay no regard to acts of parliament*, and are, perhaps more irregular on the west coast, than in any other place, owing, apparently, to the changes of winds, currents, &c. in a sea so remarkably crowded with islands.

distress likely to be short or transient. The northern parts of Germany, and also the neighbouring countries, were already attempting to avail themselves of the opportunity thrown into their hands, and of their low prices of cattle and labour, so as to get possession of the provision trade: but, though they made great efforts, and spared no expense in obtaining curers and salt proper for the business, the cargoes they sent to France were found to stand in no degree of competition with the Irish provisions. The Irish, however, could not fail to be much alarmed, when they saw the main staple of the trade of the greatest part of their country \* in danger of being annihilated. Nor was the condition of the northern part of the island, the seat of the linen manufacture, much better, the exportation of that article having been greatly reduced by the war. In addition to these grievances, many of their vessels were taken by the enemy, the loss of which, though not of so great a value as those taken from Britain, fell heavier upon a country possessed of less capital. These derangements of the commerce of Ireland were attended by their never-failing consequences, a stagnation of credit, and the dismissal of many thousands of workmen, who, with their families, were reduced to a starving condition. Though the charity of the higher ranks was so very liberally exerted on this occasion, that, it is said, twenty thousand poor people were daily fed in the one city of Dublin, yet that was only an alleviation, which could not possibly be permanent, and the poor people were still unhappy: for it is not gratis food, but a capacity to buy their own food by means of sufficient employment, that can give substantial relief to the labouring part of the community, and make them feel themselves comfortable and happy.

It was represented in parliament, that, if the grievances of Ireland should not be speedily redressed, that country would infallibly be depopulated; that the people, actuated by the impulse of the first law of nature, would emigrate to America, where their countrymen already formed a principal part of the armies now combating against the mother country; and that, when that event should take place, the exports of Great Britain must be abridged by considerably more than two millions a-year, besides the loss to be sustained by the failure of Irish rents spent in England, and the drains by pensions, sinecure places, law-suits, and journies of business and pleasure.

The clamour, which had last year been so violent against admitting the Irish to a participation of commercial privileges, had now in a great measure subsided. But still there were some petitions presented

\* The magnitude of the Irish provision trade may be judged of from the duty of one penny per head on all cattle entering the gates of Cork amounting to £600 yearly, whence the number appears to be 144,000. [*Lord Sheffield's Observations on Ireland*, p. 95, *ed.* 1785.] Cork, to be sure, is the chief seat of the provision trade; but there are several other towns, which do a vast deal in it.

against it, and particularly from Glasgow and Manchester. The friends of Ireland in the British parliament at first proposed a free and general exportation of all kinds of goods, except the woollen manufacture, 'that article being reckoned too sacred to be yet meddled with;' but they found it necessary to contract their views, and they only demanded permission to carry sugars from the West-Indies directly to Ireland. But the minister, who had hitherto kept himself neutral, suddenly declaring himself against the motion, the degree of relief granted to Ireland fell greatly short of what was generally expected. The three following acts may be considered as favourable to that country.

April 1<sup>st</sup>—The bounties allowed by former acts on the exportation of British and Irish linens, the property of persons residing in Great Britain or the American colonies, were continued to the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 1786; and persons residing in Ireland were now entitled to receive the bounty on Irish linens exported from Great Britain, though their property at the time of exportation. [19 *Geo. III*, c. 27.]

May 18<sup>th</sup>—The act of 12 Car. II, prohibiting the culture of tobacco in England and Ireland (enacted for the encouragement of the culture in America) was now repealed with respect to Ireland, 'as it is of the greatest importance to the strength and security of these kingdoms, that every attention and encouragement should be given to such of the produce and manufactures of the kingdom of Ireland, as do not materially interfere with the commercial interest of Great Britain.' But the tobacco, produced in Ireland, was allowed to be exported only to Great Britain, and in casks of not less than 450 pounds, under the same duties and regulations as American tobacco. [19 *Geo. III*, c. 35.]

As 'a means of introducing trade, manufactures, and industry, in Ireland, the following bounties were granted on the importation of hemp, the growth of that kingdom, viz.

|   |      |                      |
|---|------|----------------------|
| from 24 <sup>th</sup> June 1779 to 24 June 1786 | - £8 | } sterling per tun : |
| thence to - - - 24 June 1793                    | - 7  |                      |
| and thence to - - - 24 June 1800                | - 6  |                      |

and the importers were obliged to make an offer of all such hemp to the commissioners of the navy, and not to sell it to any other person till twenty days after making such offer. [19 *Geo. III*, c. 37.]

But the Irish do not seem to have felt themselves very much gratified by these acts, especially with such clogs annexed to them: and they soon after renewed their demands more strenuously than ever.

French wines, as well as other foreign wines, were allowed to draw back the whole duty on being exported to any of the British colonies in America, or to the East-Indies. [19 *Geo. III*, c. 41.]

June 1<sup>st</sup>—As doubts had been entertained, whether goods, manufactured in foreign parts of Europe from raw materials, the produce of Asia, Africa, or America, might not be imported into Britain, it was



now declared, that no such goods could by any means be imported, except the oils of cloves, cinnamon, mace, and nutmeg. [19 *Geo. III*, c. 48.]

The pilchard fishery having of late been so abundant\*, that the demand in the foreign markets was insufficient to take off the quantity prepared for exportation, it became an object of consequence to increase the home consumpt. For this purpose the duty on salt used in curing pilchards was entirely taken off; and instead of it a duty of  $5/2\frac{1}{2}$  was laid on every barrel containing 50 gallons of cured pilchards to be consumed at home. [19 *Geo. III*, c. 52.]

The duties payable on the exportation from Great Britain of cotton wool; the growth of the British colonies, were taken off. [19 *Geo. III*, c. 53.]

June 14<sup>th</sup>—The East-India company having now discharged their debt of £1,400,000 due to the public, and reduced their bond debt to, or under, £1,500,000, the public became intitled to a participation of the territorial acquisitions and revenues lately obtained in India. They were, however, continued entire to the company by parliament till the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 1780, they being restricted from making any dividends above *eight per cent* during that time. The company were moreover directed to present a state of their affairs every half year to the lords of the treasury; and they were prohibited from accepting bills from India for above £300,000, exclusive of certificates for £8,000 each to the commanders of their ships, without the consent of the lords of the treasury. [19 *Geo. III*, c. 61.]

In consequence of the great increase of smuggling, and of the petitions presented to parliament by the dealers in tea, spirits, &c. of London and many other places, it was enacted, that all spiritous liquor, imported from any part of Europe in any cask or vessel containing less than 60 gallons, (except an allowance of two gallons each for the seamen) should be forfeited, and also the vessel importing it, of whatever burthen she should be. All vessels, not of above 200 tons burthen, found hovering within two leagues of the coast, and having onboard tea, brandy, &c. were made liable to forfeiture. The commanders of vessels, not being East-India ships, having onboard 100 pounds of tea, or more than 100 gallons of foreign spirits in casks holding under 60 gallons, over the allowance of two gallons for each seaman, were made liable to a penalty of £300. Foreign thread lace was required to be sealed at each end of the piece by a custom-house officer, and all fo-

\* So wonderfully great are the swarms of pilchards, that the capture of one day is frequently a prodigious great object. In St. Ives bay as many were taken at once on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 1767, as fill-

ed seven thousand *hog sheads*, each of which was estimated to contain 35,000 fish, which brings the whole of the fish taken at once to the astonishing number of 245,000,000

reign lace, not having such seals, is liable to forfeiture. [19 *Geo. III*, c. 69.]

Among the various articles of the public expenditure of this year, the only one to be noted here is a grant of £5,000 to Messieurs Berkenhout and Clark of Leeds for discovering to the public their improvement in dying. [19 *Geo. III*, c. 71.]

Several acts were passed, as usual, for draining fen lands, and for making and improving canals and roads, &c.

March 3<sup>d</sup>—The commander of a slaving vessel from Liverpool was prosecuted by the African committee, as a warning to their other commanders, and fined £500, for having sold a free negro, whom he had hired as a sailor, for a slave in the year 1774, and who by the exertions of his friends in Africa had been redeemed from slavery in Jamaica, and now appeared in court against his kidnapper.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of June the marquis de Almadovar, ambassador from Spain, delivered to Lord Weymouth, one of the secretaries of state, a declaration of war against Britain by his sovereign, who, after some hesitation, was now prevailed upon to join with France and America in their efforts to humble the power, and ruin the commerce, as well as dismember the empire, of Great Britain. The marquis at the same time informed Lord Weymouth, that he had orders to return immediately to Spain.

The three-per-cent consolidated funds, which are usually considered as the standard for the value of all the others, and which had been at  $65\frac{1}{4}$  in April, immediately sunk to 60, though the real value, as the dividend wanted but a few days of being due, was now about one half per cent more than in April. Such was the consequence of the commencement of the Spanish war upon the funds, or stocks, as they are more generally, though less properly, called.

As an instance of the greatness and promptitude of the mercantile maritime force of this country, when it is thought expedient to turn it aside from the purposes of commerce to those of warfare, I shall here observe, that the one port of Liverpool, between the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 1778 and the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 1779 fitted out no less than 120 privateers, measuring 30,787 tons, and carrying 1,986 guns and 8,754 men, most of which were ships of from 14 to 20 guns, though some of them carried even 30, and a few only 10 or 12 guns. It is worthy of remark, that the fleet, which England opposed to the *invincible armada* of Spain in the year 1588, and which excited the astonishment of Europe, though it carried almost twice as many men, measured (or was computed at) but 1,198 tons more than this fleet of Liverpool privateers\*; the number

\* For this accurate account of the Liverpool privateers I am indebted to the industrious research of Mr. Chalmers. [*Estimate of the strength of Great Britain*, p. 40, ed. 1794.]

of which, we may believe was soon considerably augmented, if we consider how popular a Spanish war is at all times with our seamen, and how easily ships fitted for the slave trade can be converted into ships of war.

The homeward-bound West-India ships were assembled about the middle of June at S<sup>t</sup>. Christophers in order to sail thence under convoy for England. But Admiral Byron, the commander of the British fleet in the West-Indies, considering how great a force the French then had in those seas, and that another French fleet was also upon the way from Europe, concluded that it would be extremely dangerous to detach a part of his fleet to convoy the trade home, as it would be in the power of the French admiral to send off a force sufficient to overtake the West-India fleet, or intercept the ships of war on their return from escorting them, and also to overpower that part of his fleet which he should retain, as there was no port in the West-Indies capable of protecting them against a force so far superior, and he therefor determined to convoy the merchant ships a considerable part of the way with his whole fleet. But, as no human prudence can at once guard against every disaster, it appeared, that the safety of this very valuable fleet of merchant ships was purchased at the expence of exposing our West-India settlements to the enemy; and two valuable islands were immediately lost.

That part of the island of S<sup>t</sup>. Vincents, occupied by the British settlers, at this time contained 61 sugar plantations; and it had 500 acres in coffee, 200 in cacao, 400 in cotton, 50 in indigo, and 500 in tobacco, besides grounds for raising yams, plantains, and other articles of provision. About one third of the island was now acknowledged to belong to the Caribs, or Charaibes, the indigenous proprietors of the whole. But many unwarrantable attempts were said to have been made by some of the planters to expell those people from their possessions, which in the year 1772 brought on a petty sanguinary war (to the great discontent of the officers and soldiers employed in it, who execrated it as a disgrace to their profession) which was terminated by an insincere peace in February 1773. It was, perhaps, owing to the resentment still felt by the natives for this invasion of their property, that the island, though garrisoned by seven companies of regular troops, now fell, an unresisting prey, to so small a force as 450 men from Martinique, led by a lieutenant of the French navy; as the Caribs, who immediately joined the French, were believed by some to have invited the attack \* (June 19<sup>th</sup>). The French officer granted liberal terms of capitulation, modeled upon those of the marquis de Bouillé on the surrender of Dominica.

The comte d'Estaing, the French admiral, being reinforced by the arrival of the fleet expected from France, now saw himself the unrivaled

\* It ought, however, to be remembered, that the French were their antient friends, with whom they had formerly had much intercourse, and whose language many of them had learned.

master of the West-India seas : and, indeed, the fate of the islands seemed to be in his hand. His first object was Grenada, which he attacked with no less than twenty-five ships of the line and ten frigates, together with 5,000 soldiers. To that vast force the island could only oppose 90 soldiers, 300 militia men, and 150 seamen drawn from the merchant ships. But this handful of men acted the very reverse of the conduct of the people of St. Vincents, and, notwithstanding the enormous superiority of the enemy, made a brave defence. Their bravery was unavailing, and Lord Macartney, the governor, was obliged to surrender to the irresistible power of the enemy (July 2<sup>d</sup>).

Grenada at this time contained 106 sugar plantations, worked by 18 293 negroes, from which in the year 1776 there were exported

|                                |   |                             |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 14,012,157 pounds of muscavado | } | 23,285,764 pounds of sugar, |
| 9,273,607 pounds of clayed     |   |                             |
| and 818,700 gallons of rum.    |   |                             |

The other articles of produce exported that year, were

|   |
|---|
| 1,827,166 pounds of coffee,                 |
| 457,719 pounds of cacao, or chocolate-nuts, |
| 91,943 pounds of cotton,                    |
| 27,638 pounds of indigo,                    |

and some smaller articles; the value of the whole year's exports at the ports of shipping being estimated at £600,000, exclusive of any charges. The number of white people, which in the year 1771 was above 1,600, had decreased in 1777 to 1,300, and the negro slaves were in all about 35,000; besides whom there were free people of colour to the number of, probably, about 1,000\*.

No attack was made upon any of the other islands at this time. D'Estaing, after seeing the French homeward-bound merchant ships clear of the greatest danger, left the West-Indies, and went with the most of his ships to North America, where he accomplished nothing worthy of his great force; and soon after he abandoned his American allies, and went home to France, the island of Grenada being in fact the only conquest achieved by so mighty an armament.

July 15<sup>th</sup>—In compliance with a message from the king, the lords of trade directed that the sum of £13,000, granted by parliament for supporting the settlements on the coast of Africa, should be invested in supplies suitable for the service of the year 1780; which, on their arrival in Africa, should be appropriated to defray all charges incurred after the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1780, including the salaries of the several officers, &c. for that year: but that no part of it should be expended in satisfying any debts incurred, or alleged to be incurred, previous to

\* The crops and population of the lesser dependent islands, called Grenadines, are included in this statement.

that period. And they recommended the appointment of an agent, or agents, to be resident on the coast in order to superintend and controul the expenditure of the public supplies.

July—I have already given an account of the commencement and progress of the great canal between the Forth and the Clyde till the year 1775; when the subscribers, having expended all the funds they were enabled by parliament to raise, were obliged to desist \*. A memorial from the convention of the Royal burghs of Scotland was now presented, by their agent Mr. George Chalmers merchant in Edinburgh, to the lords of trade, as the guardians of the trade of the empire, wherein, after stating that the company, who had subscribed for carrying on the canal between the Forth and the Clyde, had carried it as far as Glasgow, so that vessels fit to navigate the open seas could now proceed from any part of the east side of Britain to that city, they represented, that in so doing they had not only exhausted the whole of their subscription funds, but also incurred a heavy debt; that for four years past 'this great national work, the noblest and most useful that ever was undertaken in any country, in respect that other inland navigations are only for carrying lighters (so far as the memorialists know †) but this is also for vessels fit to navigate in any open sea,' had been entirely at a stand; and that the tolls now taken on the canal were found to be too heavy for bulky goods of small value.

There was given in to the board at the same time a recommendation by a great number of noblemen and gentlemen of Great Britain and Ireland, wherein they submit to the ministry the propriety of government taking up this great object, in which they assert that England and Ireland are fully as much (and probably even more) interested as Scotland; as, if it were completed from sea to sea, it would shorten much of the coasting, and part of the foreign navigation, which in the winter is impracticable, and in time of war extremely hazardous in all seasons, whereby much time, and great expense and loss, may be avoided; to the great advantage of the general commerce of the three kingdoms. They add that an aid of £70,000 from the public would complete the work in about two years, and would also enable the proprietors to reduce the tolls on bulky goods; and that the three kingdoms would be more than compensated in one year of war for the whole sum now required ‡.

August—The combined fleets of France and Spain, consisting of above sixty ships of the line, with a proportionable attendance of frigates, being, perhaps, the most powerful assemblage of warlike ships

\* See above, p. 477.

† The Gloucester canal, which carries ships of 300 tons, was not begun till the year 1793.

‡ It was in the year 1784 that this great object,

so interesting to the British empire (for the benefits of this canal are not local, like those of others) was accomplished by the patriotic attention of Mr. Dundas.



ever collected in one fleet, rode masters of the Channel for a few days: but they made no attempt upon the land, and did scarcely any harm upon the water, being obliged by the very sickly condition of their seamen to return almost immediately into port. Most providentially a very valuable fleet of about two hundred vessels from Jamaica got safe home a few days before the Channel was covered by the formidable armada of the enemy, and eight homeward-bound East-India ships with rich cargoes, got intelligence of the danger, and made for Limerick in Ireland, where they arrived safe.

The East-India company, with a liberality of patriotism worthy of the greatest commercial company that ever existed, and at a time too, when they had scarcely emerged from very great embarrassments in their own concerns, gave a large bounty for raising 6,000 seamen for the public service; and they moreover made a noble addition to the navy of three complete ships of 74 guns each, which were called by the appropriate names of *Bombay-castle*, *Carnatic*, and *Ganges*. Their example was followed by several other communities, both in raising men and building ships, according to their abilities.

September—The Spanish governor of Louisiana, having been very early apprized of the commencement of hostilities, immediately seized an armed sloop and some small vessels carrying troops and provisions to the British posts on the River Mississippi, after which he found it an easy matter, with a very superior force, to compell their small garrisons to surrender prisoners of war.

This acquisition of territory, no advantage to a nation already possessing more lands than people, was more than balanced by the value of a number of very rich Spanish vessels, which fell into the hands of some English privateers; among which may be noted, as the most considerable, a Spanish ship of war from Manila to Cadiz, taken by the *Amazon* of Liverpool and the *Ranger* of Bristol, and supposed the richest prize ever taken since Anson's capture of the galleon in the South sea; the *Nuestra Señora de Piedad* of 600 tons, and carrying 16 guns and 70 men, taken by the *Dart* of Dartmouth of less than 200 tons, and carrying 14 guns and 60 men, with a cargo consisting of goods to the value of about £80,000, besides gold and silver in ingots to a great amount, and coined money to the amount of 181,066 dollars: also another ship, still larger, from the Havannah to Cadiz, valued at £200,000, taken by the *Antigallican*.

September 23<sup>d</sup>—The general assembly of Pennsylvania by a solemn act deprived the family of Penn of the property of the soil of that province, and placed it, with certain restrictions, under their own direction, as they thought the possession of such a vast property now inconsistent with the safety of the commonwealth. At the same time they ordained a compensation of £130,000 sterling to be paid to the proprietors, by installments of



not less than £15,000, nor more than £20,000, a-year, to commence at the end of one year after the conclusion of the war. Thus was a landed estate (I might almost say a territorial sovereignty) which, considering the extent and rapidly increasing value of it, was perhaps the most valuable ever possessed by any subject, transferred, after a possession of above ninety-nine years, from a private family to be the property of the state\*.

The relief afforded to the commerce of Ireland by the last session of parliament was so far short of the demands and expectations of that country, that the spirit of discontent was little or nothing abated. Meetings were held in Dublin, and afterwards in other places, at which, after branding the opposition to the complete emancipation of their commerce as not only illiberal and unjust, but also impolitic, they entered into resolutions neither to import nor consume any articles of British produce or manufacture of any kinds, which could be produced or manufactured in Ireland, till a more enlightened policy in Britain should abolish the restraints on the trade and manufactures of Ireland.

While the affair was thus resumed with increased ardour by the Irish and their friends in this country, the opposition to it became much fainter on the side of the British manufacturers: and in the meantime an unintentional combination of circumstances gave a new accession of force to the resolutions and demands of the Irish, which could not very easily be resisted. A considerable part of the army stationed in Ireland had been drawn off to be employed in America; whereupon many noblemen, gentlemen, farmers, merchants, and traders, had formed themselves into volunteer associations for the defence of the country against invasion; and their number soon increased to about 42,000 men, well armed and disciplined, among whom there was no distinction of religion, whether protestant or catholic, and scarcely any distinction of persons, men of title and fortune serving in the ranks along with their tenants and dependents. It was impossible that such a body of men, deeply interested, as they were, in the prosperity of their country, should not feel their own power and importance; and they resolved, not only to repel foreign enemies, but also to assert their right at home, and to command that freedom in trade, which, they said, had, as in the case of America, been denied to their humble solicitations. The matter was now become too serious to be trifled with; and the recent example of America convinced the administration and parliament of Great Britain, that no time was to be lost in giving real and effectual satisfaction to so respectable and powerful a body of suppliants. The British parliament

\* Besides the compensation allowed to them by their late tenants, or vassals, the family got an allowance of £4,000 a-year from the British revenue, which was secured by act of parliament, 30 *Geo. III.* c. 46.

accordingly presented an address to the king (May 11<sup>th</sup>), praying him to consider the distressed condition of the loyal and well-deserving people of Ireland, and to order such information to be laid before them, as might enable them to promote the joint prosperity of his subjects in both kingdoms. But the session was closed soon after without any thing being done in the affair; and the Irish, who apprehended, that they were trifled with, were in as bad humour as ever.

October 12<sup>th</sup>—Such was the situation of affairs, when the Irish parliament met, who immediately addressed the king with a declaration that nothing short of a free trade could save Ireland from ruin: and then, in order to show, that they were truly in earnest, they passed the money bills for six months only.

November 25<sup>th</sup>—The British parliament met for the winter; and very soon after severe censures were thrown out in both houses upon the ministry for endangering the loss of Ireland, as they had already accomplished that of America, by delaying to grant what it would no longer be in their power to withhold, whereby they were now reduced to a necessity of yielding, as a matter of right, much more than would have been thankfully received as a favour, if granted with a good grace at a proper time. At last the minister was roused to take up the business in earnest; and in his speech upon the occasion in the house of commons (December 13<sup>th</sup>) he gave the following historical retrospect of the encroachments upon the commercial liberty of Ireland.

‘ Before the restoration the Irish enjoyed every commercial benefit and advantage in common with England. The commerce, import and export, was held equally by both kingdoms till the reign of Charles II. Even the act of navigation, the great foundation of our plantation laws, put England and Ireland upon exact terms of equality; nor was it till two years after, that the first commercial restriction was laid upon Ireland, and that not directly, but by a side-wind, and by deductive interpretation. When the act first passed, there was a general governing clause for giving bonds to perform the conditions of the act: but when the act was amended in the 15<sup>th</sup> of Charles the Second, the word *Ireland* was omitted; from whence a conclusion was drawn, that the acts of the two preceding parliaments, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup>, of Charles II, were thereby repealed, though it was as clearly expressed in those acts, as it was possible for words to convey, that ships built in Ireland, navigated by the people thereof, were deemed British, and qualified to trade to and from the British plantations; and that ships built in Ireland, and navigated by his Majesty’s subjects of Ireland, were intitled to the same abatements and privileges, to which importers and exporters of goods in British-built ships were entitled. However, Ireland had been as much excluded from trading with the British colonies as France, Spain, or any other foreign nation, in the

‘ way of a direct export or import trade, excepting in a few trifling instances. Some of the restraints respecting Ireland in the reign of Charles II were supposed to have originated in a dislike or jealousy of the growing power of the then duke of Ormond, who, from his great estate and possessions in Ireland, was supposed to have a personal interest in the prosperity of that kingdom. So far, indeed, was this spirit carried, whether from personal enmity to the duke of Ormond, from narrow prejudices, or a blind policy, that the parliament of England passed a law to prohibit the importation of Irish lean cattle \*.’

The minister proceeding in his historical narrative, observed, that in the year 1692 † the parliament of England recommended to the king a kind of compact between the two kingdoms, whereby England should exclusively enjoy the woollen manufacture, and Ireland should exclusively enjoy that of linen. Ireland accepted the terms, and in consequence of the compact abstained from the woollen manufacture, and even, by a temporary act, laid a duty equal to a prohibition on the exportation of wool and all kinds of woollen goods ‡. England however did not abstain from the linen manufacture, but carried it on to fully as great an

\* So the prosperity of a great nation was apparently the sport of private resentment, or, what is falsely called, politics. The law against importing lean cattle must, however, have been a real benefit to the Irish, unless the enemies of Ormond could at the same time have deprived them of their excellent pastures for feeding and fattening their cattle, and of salt for curing the flesh of them. It turned out in fact also a benefit in another way, as it roused their attention to other articles of commerce; for, as we are told by the biographer of Ormond,

‘ The Irish till then had no commerce but with this kingdom, and scarce entertained a thought of trafficking with other countries. They supplied us with their native commodities, which made work cheap, and carried off our artificial ones to a value which exceeded that of their own; so that they were rather impoverished than improved by the traffick: The English were undoubtedly the gainers by this mutual trade, from which they now so wantonly cut themselves off by forbidding the principal part of it, and rendering the rest impracticable. They soon felt the consequence of this unhappy step: the Irish, forced by their necessities to be industrious, set themselves to improve their own manufactures, and carried their trade to foreign parts, from whence they brought those commodities which they used to take from England. In this country the price of meat rose considerably as soon as the act passed, even before the end of this session of parliament (which broke up on Feb. 9) the price of labour and rate of wages were thereby enhanced; and the wool of Ireland, which never before had any vent but in England, being now carried abroad, foreigners

‘ were thereby enabled to set up woollen manufactures, and by the cheapness of labour in their country, undersell us in that most beneficial branch of our commerce. The English have since sufficiently felt the mischiefs of this proceeding; which were in truth obvious enough to be foreseen at that time by a man of common understanding, but it will puzzle the wisest to find a remedy to remove them, now they have actually happened. It would be well, if any experience could make them wiser, and dispose them to treat Ireland better.’ [*Carr's Life of Ormond*, V. ii, p. 337. See also the following pages for the commencement and progress of some of the manufactures of Ireland.—And see *Lord Sheffield's Observations on the trade of Ireland*, p. 149, third ed.]

† The date ought to be 1698.

‡ The Irish parliament imposed an additional duty of 20 per cent ad valorem on the exportation of broad cloths, and 10 per cent on serges, baize, kerseys, and other new drapery, frizes only excepted (and to them also it was afterwards extended) which was in effect a prohibition. The consequences were, that the woollen manufacture of Ireland for exportation was entirely destroyed; several thousand manufacturers left the kingdom; some of the southern and western districts were almost depopulated; and the whole kingdom was reduced to the utmost poverty and distress. [*Journals of the Irish house of commons*, 1772, p. 400, and 1774, p. 362.] Such were the fruits of banishing a natural manufacture of native materials, and forcibly introducing a manufacture from foreign materials, the supply of which must depend upon the pleasure of rival, or perhaps hostile, nations.

extent as Ireland, and moreover, without consulting the parliament of Ireland, passed an act [10, 11 Will. III] making the heavy duties on the exportation of Irish wool, &c. perpetual; by which, and some others that followed it, the woollen trade of Ireland was annihilated\*. He stated the exports from Britain to Ireland upon an average of six years, 1766-1772, at somewhat above two millions annually, and in the succeeding six years, extending to 1778, about as much more, whereof nearly one half was British manufacture or produce, and the remainder certified articles, whereof this country was the medium of conveyance. Of these exports the woollen goods amounted only to about £200,000 a-year; so that it would be very bad policy to risk an export trade of native produce to the amount of a million for the sake of an export of woollens to the amount of £200,000 †. He observed, that the woollen trade of Ireland, though freed from all the restraints it had hitherto been shackled with, must long continue in such a state of infancy, as would render it impossible for that country to compete with England in foreign markets, seeing that now, notwithstanding the low rate of wages in Ireland, English fine cloths, though loaded with the various

\* 'The woollen manufacturers of Ireland, who, or their ancestors, came chiefly from England, now emigrated from Ireland; certainly, however, in smaller numbers than were at the time represented. In their resentment and necessities many of the protestants moved to Germany, many of the Roman catholics to Spain, and others of each description to France, where they received encouragement, and shewed the way how our wool might be smuggled from both islands. The foundations of manufactures were laid, or they were promoted, highly to the prejudice of England: and thus some return was made for the manufactures established in the British dominions by the equally wise [revocation of the] edict of Nantz.' [Lord Sheffield's Observations on the trade of Ireland, p. 151 ed. 1785.]

† The amount of the trade between Great Britain and Ireland, according to the British custom-house accounts, may be seen in the annual accounts of imports and exports, by which Britain appears to draw almost every year a very considerable balance from Ireland. But it is necessary to observe, that the linens, which generally constitute above one half of the whole imports from Ireland, are therein rated at 8d a yard, rather less than one half of their true average value, which must necessarily produce an error, or falsification, of very great magnitude. In the Irish custom-house accounts the linens are rated from 15d to 17d, which, though still under the truth, turns the balance in favour of Ireland to a very considerable amount. The following is the Irish account of the trade with Great Britain in most of the years referred to by Lord North.

| Ireland exported to Great Britain ; |            |                                       |          | Ireland imported from Great Britain ; |  |                           |  |
|-------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
|                                     |            | whereof in linens, and in linen yarn. |          |                                       |  | whereof in woollen goods. |  |
| 1769                                | £2,266,151 |                                       |          | £1,776,996                            |  |                           |  |
| 1770                                | 2,408,838  |                                       |          | 1,878,599                             |  |                           |  |
| 1771                                | 2,514,039  |                                       |          | 1,806,732                             |  |                           |  |
| 1772                                | 2,405,507  |                                       |          | 1,586,623                             |  |                           |  |
| 1773                                | 2,178,664  |                                       |          | 1,679,212                             |  |                           |  |
| 1774                                | 2,117,695  | £1,237,121                            | £175,166 | 1,711,174                             |  |                           |  |
| 1775                                | 2,379,858  | 1,458,543                             | 183,592  | 1,739,543                             |  |                           |  |
| 1776                                | 2,551,211  | 1,435,110                             | 216,915  | 1,875,525                             |  |                           |  |
| 1777                                | 2,552,296  | 1,387,584                             | 178,190  | 2,233,192                             |  |                           |  |
| 1778                                | 2,718,145  | 1,542,748                             | 168,653  | 2,076,460                             |  |                           |  |
|                                     |            |                                       |          | average of five years                 |  | £270,399                  |  |
|                                     |            |                                       |          |                                       |  | 353,408                   |  |

The year 1777 is noted for the uncommonly great amount of the importation of British goods, which in consequence of non-importation agreements and other circumstances, fell off very much in the ensuing years. [Lord Sheffield's Observations, pp. 8, 160; 276, 284.]



charges of land and sea carriage, insurance, factorage, &c. were sold cheaper than those of their own manufacture. He observed, that the linen manufacture of Ireland, however prosperous it might appear, was still capable of great improvement; and he opposed the idea of abolishing the bounty on Irish linens, because it appeared, that the British bounty was a great encouragement to the Irish linen manufacture, and the amount of it was trifling, being little above £13,000 in the highest years.

Previous to an act of 19<sup>th</sup> George II Ireland imported glass from other countries, and also manufactured some of the coarser kinds. That act, which prohibited the Irish from importing glass from any country but Britain, and grievously oppressed the manufacture of glass in Ireland, ought to be repealed.—The proposition of allowing Ireland a free trade to the colonies, which had been settled, and reared to their present state by Great Britain only, could upon no account be claimed as a matter of right, but must be received as a mere favour\*: and the minister declared it as his opinion, that such a permission, accompanied by a stipulation for equalizing duties upon imports and exports, would be no loss, but an advantage, to Britain, as it would convince the Irish of our sincere desire to render them wealthy and happy: and they, when restored to their former good humour, and united to us by friendship and interest, would be again, as they have heretofore been, the best customers of this country.

December 23<sup>d</sup>—In pursuance of this manifestation of liberality, the acts of 11<sup>th</sup> Will. III, and the 19<sup>th</sup> Geo. II, which prohibited the Irish from exporting their own woollen manufactures and glass ware, were repealed. [20 Geo. III, c. 6.]

Also, the many acts, by which the commerce of Ireland was fettered, were so far repealed, that all goods, which may be legally imported from the British settlements in America and on the coast of Africa to Great Britain, may in like manner be imported directly from those settlements to Ireland. And all such goods, as may be legally exported from Britain to the British settlements in America or Africa, may in like manner be exported from Ireland to the same places, on condition that duties, equal to those paid in British ports, be imposed by the Irish parliament on the imports and exports of Ireland†. [20 Geo. III, c. 10.]

At the same time the permission to import Italian organzined silk was further continued till the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1781. [20 Geo. III, c. 4.]

\* Might not the Irish allege, that they also could have planted colonies in the western world, as well as send out their emigrants to strengthen the armies of every Roman-catholic country in Europe? As it is, the island of Montserrat is entirely occupied by planters of Irish origin, the descendants of the original settlers; and in Jamaica a

great proportion of the planters, probably above a third part of the whole, are Irish, or of Irish origin.

† Some further relaxations of the restraints on the trade of Ireland were enacted in the ensuing spring, as will be related in due time.

✓ The British settlers on the Musquito shore having, by a memorial to the lords of the treasury in March 1779, requested permission to import sugar and rum produced on their plantations without being subjected to the duties payable upon foreign produce; and the law, which subjected them to those duties, having been intended merely to guard against foreign sugars being smuggled from the British-American provinces lying north of the Gulf of Mexico, it was thought just and proper that the produce of the Musquito shore should be exempted from the operation of that law: and therefor ✓

The rigour of the act 18 Geo. III, c. 58 was softened, and sugar actually the growth of any of the British sugar colonies, though imported into Britain from other British colonies, was admitted to entry without being charged with a foreign duty. [20 Geo. III, c. 7.]

The northern ports were now indulged in building a few ships for the navy. Several ships of war were built in the River Wye. The Syren, a frigate of 32 guns, built at Newcastle, and the Fury, a ship of 16 guns, built at Leith, were launched in the course of this year. The Fury was, I believe, the first ship for the navy built in Scotland since the accession of James VI to the crown of England.

The invention of extracting tar from coals may be considered as a small mite of alleviation of the multiplied calamities flowing from the American war. The failure of the supply of tar from America put the proprietors of a manufacture of lamp-black at Bristol upon making experiments on the oil extracted from pit-coals in their works; and they found, that, by different degrees of boiling, it could be brought to the consistence of tar, and also of pitch. The tar, besides being much cheaper, proved more efficacious in preserving the bottoms of ships from the worm than vegetable tar. Moreover the coal, after the tar is extracted, becomes excellent coak, whereby a great saving is made in many manufactures, for which coal used to be charred on purpose, in which operation the valuable tar was totally lost in smoke, as it is in a great measure in our common fires.—This invention has been greatly improved, so as to make the coal produce oil, volatile spirits, and varnish, as well as tar, pitch, and coak, by the earl of Dundonald, a nobleman, who devotes his time, his fortune, and his great knowledge in chymistry, to advance the national prosperity, and improve the condition of the people in his neighbourhood.

Before the war flax-seed used to be a considerable article in the imports from America, especially to Ireland. The annual quantity on an average of the years 1768, 1769, and 1770 was  
to Great Britain - - - 12,436 bushels  
to Ireland - - - - - 255,851

268,287 at 2/3 amount to £30,232.5.9



After the commencement of the war the Irish preserved the seed of their own flax, which was found to answer so well as to render them more independent of foreign flax-seed than they had hitherto thought themselves. Before the war England imported flax-seed from the continent of Europe, chiefly Holland and Russia, the average quantity of which in the years 1772, 1773, and 1774, was above 102,000 cwt. value £239,869: and in the years 1777, 1778, and 1779, the flax-seed imported from those countries continued the same, viz - - - £239,869 5 3 The quantity imported from them to Scotland in the

|                        |   |   |   |   |   |          |    |   |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|----------|----|---|
| same years averaged    | - | - | - | - | - | 186,941  | 18 | 6 |
| being above 4,000 tuns | - | - | - | - | - | £426,811 | 3  | 9 |

[*Lord Sheffield's Observations on American commerce*, p. 116, ed. 1784.]

That branch of architectural engineering, which is appropriated to the accommodation of shipping, was carried to great perfection in Sweden by Mr. Tunberg, who constructed a grand basin at Carlskroon, containing twenty-four docks for the reception of ships, in any one of which they may lie either dry or afloat, as the business of the vessels in each of them may require.

In the course of this year 1,651 British vessels, 2,075 Dutch, and not one French one, passed the Sound. So completely was the French trade with the Baltic annihilated by the war, at least as to the carriage, which was entirely transferred to the Dutch.

There were at this time no less than 1,104 empty houses within the city of London, as appeared by the returns of the deputies of the several wards; and their annual rents were estimated at £26,375, which is surely rating them very low, being under £24 a house.

The following is the quantity of coals imported into London since the year 1772, when the importation, as already related, was so uncommonly great.

|                          |   |                |  |                |
|--------------------------|---|----------------|--|----------------|
| 1773.. 624,781 chaldrons | : | 1776.. 700,207 |  | 1779.. 587,895 |
| 1774.. 623,727           | : | 1777.. 694,437 |  |                |
| 1775.. 672,785           | : | 1778.. 647,361 |  |                |

The magnitude and importance of the cotton manufactures of Great Britain render every information which marks their progress interesting. I have therefor extracted, from several official papers, laid before the house of commons at various times, the following concise account of the importation of the raw material in the under-mentioned years, during which the manufacture, compared with its present extension, may be said to have been in its infancy.

There were imported into

|      | ENGLAND.                                  |                                   |                | SCOTLAND.                               |                                   |                |
|------|---|-----------------------------------|----------------|---|-----------------------------------|----------------|
|      | Cotton of the British colonies *, pounds. | Cotton of foreign growth, pounds. | Total, pounds. | Cotton of the British colonies, pounds. | Cotton of foreign growth, pounds. | Total, pounds. |
| 1768 | 3,294,297                                 | 836,504                           | 4,130,801      | 114,916                                 | 259                               | 115,175        |
| 1769 | 3,234,652                                 | 1,171,403                         | 4,406,055      | 119,659                                 | 1,988                             | 121,647        |
| 1770 | 2,838,816                                 | 773,600                           | 3,572,416      | 106,042                                 | 420                               | 106,462        |
| 1771 | 2,177,071                                 | 370,385                           | 2,547,456      | 86,991                                  | 1,232                             | 88,223         |
| 1772 | 3,103,400                                 | 2,204,012                         | 5,307,412      | 106,883                                 |                                   | 106,883        |
| 1773 | 2,290,331                                 | 615,458                           | 2,905,789      | 86,785                                  | 20,295                            | 107,080        |
| 1774 | 3,084,758                                 | 2,622,523                         | 5,707,281      | 77,692                                  | 79,880                            | 157,572        |
| 1775 | 2,726,298                                 | 3,967,436                         | 6,693,734      | 98,454                                  |                                   | 98,454         |
| 1776 | 3,325,010                                 | 2,891,237                         | 6,216,247      | 113,850                                 |                                   | 113,850        |
| 1777 | 4,041,109                                 | 2,995,996                         | 7,037,105      | 220,400                                 | 27,102                            | 247,502        |
| 1778 | 4,814,430                                 | 1,726,681                         | 6,541,111      |   |                                   |                |
| 1779 | 3,917,332                                 | 372,154                           | 4,289,486      |   |                                   |                |

There belonged this year to all the ports  
of England 6,955 veffels of the reputed burthen of 574,620 tuns;  
and of Scotland 1,521 - - - 88,321

Total 8,476 662,941

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain, from  
and to foreign countries, and including repeated voyages,

|           | British  |         | Foreign  |         | Total    |         |
|-----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
|           | Veffels. | Tuns.   | Veffels. | Tuns.   | Veffels. | Tuns.   |
| Inward -  | 5,362    | 583,704 | 2,213    | 240,296 | 7,575    | 824,000 |
| Outward - | 6,832    | 642,981 | 1,306    | 149,040 | 8,138    | 792,021 |

The net amount of the customs, including the West-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the course of this year, was from the custom-house in London £2,502,273 19 8 and from the custom-house in Edinburgh there was nothing remitted this year, the whole customs of Scotland being paid away in fishery bounties, drawbacks, &c.

There were coined at the mint in the course of the year  
36,300 pounds of gold, value £1,696,117 10 0  
and 82 pounds of filver, 254 4 0  
£1,696,371 14 0

\* The inspector general has classed St Croix, St Eustathius, and St Thomas, along with the British West-India islands in this account.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Christmas 1778 to Christmas 1779 was as follows.

| Countries, &c.            | Imported into   |              | Exported from   |               |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
|                           | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.    | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.     |
| Africa                    | £33,960 16 9    |              | £159,217 19 7   |               |
| Canaries                  | 2,091 15 7      |              | 17,494 7 6      |               |
| Denmark, &c.              | 73,171 13 3     | £18,111 3 0  | 150,615 2 4     | £6,269 18 6   |
| East country              | 201,982 8 5     |              | 50,326 7 0      |               |
| East-India                | 716,323 9 10    |              | 703,191 14 4    |               |
| Flanders                  | 524,413 10 7    |              | 1,041,721 4 4   |               |
| France                    | 12,972 1 2      |              | 2,812 18 0      |               |
| Germany                   | 552,604 19 2    | 12,357 3 0   | 1,263,515 7 2   | 32,036 7 7    |
| Greenland                 | 23,620 15 1     | 7,776 9 9    | 124 16 0        |               |
| Holland                   | 517,170 17 4    | 131,016 8 3  | 1,250,015 13 9  | 85,476 7 0    |
| Ireland                   | 1,384,117 15 4  | 163,061 6 7  | 1,359,415 2 1   | 280,538 17 1  |
| Mann                      | 15,252 14 10    | 2,059 3 6    | 20,407 4 3      | 766 14 10     |
| Italy                     | 47,477 18 7     |              | 307,548 17 1    | 2,827 10 0    |
| Madeira                   | 3,031 5 2       |              | 18,719 1 11     |               |
| Poland                    |                 | 11,134 13 1  |                 | 1,944 8 0     |
| Portugal                  | 285,334 3 10    | 10,411 6 5   | 647,813 19 9    | 1,745 4 9     |
| Russia                    | 1,201,377 14 4  | 145,978 17 6 | 306,072 15 11   | 23,966 9 0    |
| Prussia                   |                 | 8,072 4 3    |                 | 60 0 0        |
| Spain                     | 220,748 5 3     | 3,369 4 1    | 599,765 17 0    | 7 0 0         |
| Gibraltar                 |                 |              |                 | 50 0 0        |
| Straits                   | 1,547 2 6       |              | 4,534 1 0       |               |
| Sweden                    | 252,431 4 2     | 31,471 13 7  | 108,403 4 7     | 3,027 5 9     |
| Turkey                    | 1,474 12 6      |              | 229 19 0        |               |
| Venice                    | 78,532 3 2      |              | 29,465 14 11    |               |
| Guernsey, &c.             | 76,799 18 4     | 1,304 8 5    | 54,117 13 11    | 351 18 10     |
| America in general        |                 | 38,952 10 1  |                 | 235,875 15 11 |
| Hudson's bay              | 5,116 15 7      |              | 5,447 6 0       |               |
| Newfoundland              | 65,725 10 8     |              | 87,947 8 11     |               |
| Cape Breton               |                 |              | 22 8 0          |               |
| Quebec                    | 61,924 12 7     |              | 521,240 6 10    |               |
| Nova-Scotia               | 1,956 8 2       |              | 227,181 12 2    |               |
| New-England               | 807 10 10       |              |                 |               |
| New-York                  | 14,861 19 6     |              | 349,712 7 2     |               |
| Pennsylvania              | 569 13 9        |              |                 |               |
| Carolina                  | 3,732 8 9       |              |                 |               |
| Georgia                   | 607 7 1         |              | 85 4 2          |               |
| Florida                   | 23,804 19 0     |              | 128,311 14 11   |               |
| West-Indies in general    |                 | 199,695 16 5 |                 | 162,329 6 0   |
| Antigua                   | 85,957 5 11     |              | 90,110 1 0      |               |
| Barbados                  | 145,293 12 6    |              | 140,170 12 5    |               |
| Bermuda                   | 9,202 2 10      |              | 27,463 6 8      |               |
| Grenada                   | 317,965 1 7     |              | 42,268 8 10     |               |
| Jamaica                   | 1,458,764 6 6   |              | 484,365 10 10   |               |
| Montserrat                | 62,204 13 2     |              | 9,132 13 2      |               |
| Nevis                     | 57,022 6 2      |              | 16,013 2 3      |               |
| New-Providence            | 1,256 6 8       |              | 682 18 1        |               |
| St. Croix                 |                 |              | 283 11 3        |               |
| St. Eustathius            | 1,813 16 5      |              | 14,474 2 11     |               |
| St. Christophers          | 320,639 11 9    |              | 118,747 6 4     |               |
| St. Lucia                 | 18,839 12 1     |              | 14,210 10 9     |               |
| St. Vincents              | 103,399 8 4     |              | 6,228 19 8      |               |
| Tobago                    | 45,562 6 7      |              | 10,867 8 8      |               |
| Tortola                   | 44,879 7 10     |              | 44,135 0 6      |               |
| Bay of Honduras           | 10,690 1 6      |              | 2,066 19 11     |               |
| Musquito shore            | 48 12 3         |              | 1,030 18 6      |               |
| Falkland's islands        | 3,400 0 0       |              |                 |               |
| Southern fishery          | 3,267 10 0      |              |                 |               |
|                           | 9,096,740 13 4  |              | 10,437,729 1 4  |               |
| Prize goods               | 1,563,751 12 2  |              | 2,255,700 9 9   |               |
| Imp and exp. of England   | 10,660,492 5 6  |              | 12,693,429 11 1 |               |
| Imp. and exp. of Scotland | 774,772 7 11    | 774,772 7 11 | 837,273 1 3     | 837,273 1 3   |
| Total, Great Britain      | 11,435,264 13 5 |              | 13,530,702 12 4 |               |

1780—After a long series of altercations with the Dutch by remonstrances on both sides, they still insisting on their right, as a neutral nation, and more especially in virtue of the marine treaty of the year 1674, to carry supplies for the French, and the British ships of war still seizing their vessels loaded with stores for France, wherever they found them, the Dutch determined to protect their navigation by an armed force, and sent Admiral Byland with five ships of war to convoy a fleet of merchant ships. 1<sup>st</sup> January—Near Portland they were met by Commodore Fielding, who requested the admiral's permission to send his boats to examine the merchant ships, which was refused. He notwithstanding sent his boats, which were fired upon by the Dutch, whereupon Commodore Fielding fired a shot ahead of the Dutch admiral, who immediately fired a broadside. Commodore Fielding returned the compliment, and the Dutch admiral, without further contest, struck his colours. All the merchant ships, that had naval stores onboard, were taken possession of; and the commodore gave notice to the Dutch admiral, that he was at liberty to hoist his colours and prosecute his voyage. He hoisted his colours, but insisted upon keeping by his convoy; and accordingly he attended the fleet into Spithead. The merchant ships, that were detained, were all condemned as legal prizes. The Dutch were now more incensed than ever, and exclaimed, that, in defiance of treaties, their property was seized to a very large amount, and also their flag grossly insulted\*; and they vehemently demanded immediate satisfaction in a tone that made it very evident, that Holland would soon be added to the confederacy against Great Britain. The British court, however, were so far from yielding any thing to their clamours, that they soon after issued a proclamation, whereby all foreign vessels, found assisting the enemy with warlike stores, were declared lawful prizes to those who should seize them (21<sup>st</sup> January).

The beginning of this year was distinguished by the successes of Admiral Rodney against the Spaniards. Having fallen in with a convoy of sixteen ships from St. Sebastians, bound for Cadiz under the protection of seven ships of war from 64 to 10 guns, he took the whole of them, not one of the men of war or merchantmen escaping (8<sup>th</sup> January). Of the later, twelve were loaded with wheat and flour, three with naval stores, and one with tobacco. And soon after this important capture he engaged the Spanish fleet, consisting of eleven sail of the line and two frigates, whereof he took six ships of the line (16<sup>th</sup> January). The rest, except one ship of 70 guns, which blew up, made their escape.

\* It was with a very bad grace that the Dutch pretended to vindicate their officiousness in the service of France upon the principle of unlimited freedom of commerce, while at the same time, with

the most glaring partiality, they threatened to punish by severe penalties any one of their subjects, who should use that freedom of commerce in supplying the garrison of Gibraltar with provisions.

The great force, which the French now had in the West-Indies, could not fail to be very alarming to all who were interested in our remaining possessions in that part of the world. The planters and others concerned in the island of Jamaica, as being the most numerous and considerable body, therefor presented a petition to the house of commons (10<sup>th</sup> February), and another to the house of lords (21<sup>st</sup> February), wherein they represented, that that island, one of the most valuable of all our foreign possessions, with the prosperity of which the interest of Great Britain is intimately and inseparably connected, was totally destitute of defence, and owed its being now a British colony to the mere accident of the forces of the enemy being directed to another object: that the planters of Jamaica, considering the distresses brought upon them by the war, had gone far beyond their abilities in taxes and contributions paid both in Jamaica and in Britain, and also in very burthensome personal services. They complained of the neglect of their petitions by the ministry ever since the year 1773, and, having affirmed that they and their interests were worthy and deserving of protection, they concluded by demanding it as their undoubted right \*.

Every wellwisher to the prosperity of the British empire will approve of my paying a tribute of respect to the memory of Mr. David Loch, merchant in Edinburgh and afterwards general inspector of the fisheries of Scotland, who finished his useful life this year (February 21<sup>st</sup>). This real patriot, whose ruling passion was zeal for the welfare of his country, exerted himself strongly in promoting the improvement of Scotland, and especially the increase and improvement of the breed of sheep, and the prosecution of the woollen manufacture, which very many natural advantages evidently point out as the proper staple of Scotland. He insisted, that the extension and success of the woollen manufacture in Scotland, instead of being, as some narrow-minded people suppose, injurious to England, would greatly promote the general welfare of the united kingdom, and be the surest means of subduing the competition of the French and Dutch. He asserted 'that millions of additional sheep may be raised without encroaching upon a single acre of land capable of bearing corn, or rearing black cattle:' and his public-spirited advice produced a great augmentation in the breed of that valuable animal in Scotland, and particularly in the Highland districts. Thus it is in the power of one patriot to increase the happiness of millions. The conqueror has for his object the empty aggrandizement of his own name at

\* It is worthy of remark, that at the very time these petitions were presented, a military force, consisting of about 500 regulars besides volunteers, and several small ships of war and transports, with a good train of artillery, and suitably provided

with warlike stores, under the command of Colonel Polson and Captain (now Lord) Nelson, sailed from Jamaica on an expedition against the Spanish Main.

the expence of the ruin of millions. So opposite are these two characters\*.

March 21<sup>st</sup>—Twelve millions were raised for the service of government by a loan, the subscribers to which received an annuity of £4, with a terminable one of £1 : 16 : 3 to continue for eighty years, for every £100 paid in, together with a privilege of having four lottery tickets at £10 each for every subscription of £1,000; the whole sum to be raised by the lottery being £480,000. [20 *Geo. III*, c. 16.]

The several acts, which prohibited carrying gold or silver coin to Ireland, were repealed. The Irish were allowed to import foreign hops, and to receive a drawback of the duty on British. They were also allowed to become members of the Turkey company, and moreover to carry on a direct trade between Ireland and the Levant sea in the same manner as the Turkey company of England had hitherto exclusively done. [20 *Geo. III*, c. 18.]

Several acts which were near expiring, were continued as follows.

The act for securing to the East-India company the exclusive trade to India, and preventing British subjects from trading thither under foreign colours, continued to 25<sup>th</sup> March 1781.

The act for importing salt from Europe to Quebec, continued till 24<sup>th</sup> June 1785.

The act for permitting the free importation of raw goat-skins, continued till 20<sup>th</sup> June 1785.

So much of the act for allowing the exportation of limited quantities of wheat to the sugar islands and other places, as relates to the sugar islands, continued till 1<sup>st</sup> May 1781.

So much of the act 17 *Geo. III*, c. 43, as relates to the exportation of tobacco-pipe clay to the sugar islands, continued till 24<sup>th</sup> June 1783. [20 *Geo. III*, c. 19.]

The liberty of navigating British ships with foreign seamen, not exceeding three fourths of their complement, was prolonged till 25<sup>th</sup> March 1781. [20 *Geo. III*, c. 20.]

April—The chevalier de Pinto, the Portuguese ambassador, presented some memorials complaining of infractions of the treaties between Britain and Portugal, and remonstrating against an additional duty proposed to be laid upon Portugal wines. The several articles of his complaint were found to be frivolous, or unsupported by proof: and with respect to the proposed duty on wine, it was answered, that, as the wines of France would be affected by it in the proportion, stipulated in the

\* The reader may compare Loch's *Essays on the trade, commerce, manufactures, and fisheries, of Scotland*, 8<sup>vo</sup> Edin. 1775 and 1778, with the specious, but mistaken (not ill-intended) arguments for preferring the linen manufacture, urged in *The interest of Scotland considered*, 8<sup>vo</sup> Edin. 1733, written by Mr. Lindsay, also a merchant in Edinburgh and a friend to the prosperity of his country, when the inflamed rage for the linen manufacture was in its youth and greatest vigour.



commercial treaty with Portugal, his nation could have no just cause of complaint.

Soon after the Europeans began to trade to China, the emperor established a *co-hong*, or company of merchants, consisting of ten hong, or mercantile houses, and invested them with an exclusive privilege of transacting all business with the Europeans, who were not permitted to deal with any other Chinese merchants, unless with their consent. The co-hong were made conjunctly responsible to the government and to the foreign merchants. They fixed the prices of all goods, imported or to be exported, and regulated the terms of all trade with foreigners: and it is said, they were never known to abuse so extraordinary a power. In the beginning of the year 1771 the co-hong was dissolved: but the officers of government at Canton declared, that no foreigner should do any business but with the ten houses formerly incorporated in the co-hong, or such persons as should be recommended by one of them, or by one of the three principal linguists; and that if they dealt with any other persons, the government should not be answerable for any losses they might sustain by trusting Chinese traders.

The ten hong now strove to supplant each-other in the favour of the officers of government: and the property of British subjects was lavished in bribes (called presents) to those officers, who consequently protected their favourite hong against the complaints of the Europeans. As those complaints were very frequent, the hong merchants procured a declaration from the officers of government at Canton, that they would in future receive no memorial or petition from any European, but such as should be presented by a hong merchant. The British merchants at Canton, finding themselves thus shut out from all possibility of obtaining redress there, transmitted representations of the large amount of British property, thus circumstanced in China, to their creditors in London and Madras. The creditors in London applied to the directors of the East-India company, who thought that the debt due to the British subjects in Canton ought, on account of its great amount \*, to be considered as an object of national concern. On the application of the creditors in Madras, the commander of the British fleet in the Indian seas, sent a frigate to Canton two years successively to demand justice for the British subjects in the name of his Britannic majesty. This reiterated demand procured a curious mode of settling the affair. The debts due by two of the hong merchants being adjusted, with interest to the end of the season 1779-80, were found to amount to about £400,000. One half of that large sum was entirely lopped off; and payment of the remainder was ordered to be made in ten years by annual installments,

\* A letter from Canton, dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 1780, stated the amount of the debts to be 3,808,075 dollars: the memorial for the agents of the creditors in 1778 stated it at £1,000,000: and Mr. Smith's account of the debts raised the total to £2,025,863 sterling.

but without any interest. The funds for the payments were not drawn from the effects of the two hong, who were the defaulters, nor from the exchequer of China, nor from any public or private Chinese property; but from a new tax, laid, for the purpose, upon the European trade with China. The Chinese government, I believe, justified the measure by a law of the empire forbidding foreigners to make any loans (which might perhaps be extended to giving credit in commercial transactions) to any subject of China: and thence they even claimed a merit of generosity to the individual sufferers in doing what they did. With respect to the debts due by another of the hong, amounting to near £400,000, a promise was made, that they should be put in a train of settlement, after the others should be paid off. But as to the debts due by the rest of the hong, no kind of promise of any satisfaction whatever could be obtained.

Upon this transaction a committee of the East-India company remarked, that, 'It may appear extraordinary, but it is no less true, that the company have sustained great injury from individuals having become the creditors of the Chinese.' It may be added, that it was at least as extraordinary, that the Europeans should have been better used in their commercial concerns by a company possessing an exclusive monopoly, than by the partners of that company competing individually for the advantages of their trade.

April 17<sup>th</sup>.—The king published a declaration announcing, that the Dutch, by their neglect or refusal of furnishing the succours stipulated by treaty, had deserted the alliance between Great Britain and the republic; and that thenceforth they should be considered as in the situation of a neutral power, not privileged by treaty, and all the advantages granted to their navigation and commerce in time of war by the marine treaty of the year 1674 should be suspended till further orders\*.

\* The truth is, that the marine treaty of 1674 appears to have been very loosely drawn up. The third article, which declares what goods are to be esteemed contraband, includes only artillery, ammunition, arms, armour, soldiers, horses, and their furniture: and the fourth article says, that 'all provision which serves for the nourishment and sustenance of life; likewise all kind of cotton, hemp, flax, and pitch; and ropes, sails, and anchors; also masts and planks, boards and beams of what sort of wood soever, and all other materials requisite for the building or repairing of ships' 'shall be wholly reputed amongst free goods, even as all other wares and commodities, which are not comprehended in the next preceding article; so that the same may be freely transported and carried' 'by the subjects of the

'said States to places under the obedience of the enemies of his said Majesty.'—It was upon this article that the Dutch founded their claim to an absolute freedom of commerce. But there was a secret article, which expressly prohibited the subjects of either power from furnishing any ships, soldiers, seamen, *viâuals*, money, *instruments of war*, &c. to the enemies of either party. And this article, so contradictory to the other, was what the British ambassador insisted on in his remonstrance to the States-general, and was made the rule of conduct for our naval commanders, who would, no doubt, consider the materials of ships as the most important *instruments of war*. See *Chalmers's Collection of treaties*, V. i, pp. 178, 179, or Anderson's brief account of this treaty under the year 1674.

May 4<sup>th</sup>—The duties upon pot-ashes and other ashes, imported from the continent of Europe, and used in manufactures, being found to be a discouragement to some manufactures, were reduced to 2*s*. on pot-ashes and pearl-ashes, and 6*d*. on wood and weed ashes, per hundred-weight of 112 pounds. The act to continue in force till 31<sup>st</sup> May 1783. [20 *Geo. III*, c. 25.]

The trade of Aberystwyth being considerably increased, and larger vessels being employed in it than formerly, a number of gentlemen of the neighbourhood were incorporated for the purpose of deepening and improving the harbour. [20 *Geo. III*, c. 26.]

The islands of Grenada and the Grenadines being now under the dominion of the French, an act was passed, protecting the property of the British subjects of those islands, shipped onboard neutral vessels for neutral ports, against being taken by British ships of war or privateers, provided the whole cargo was taken in at the islands, and the certificate attested by any five of a number of gentlemen named in the act. [20 *Geo. III*, c. 29.]

An additional duty of eight guineas was laid on every tun of French wine or vinegar, and of four guineas on the wines and vinegars of other countries. [20 *Geo. III*, c. 30.]

A great proportion of the British mercantile shipping being at this time withdrawn from the purposes of trade by being converted into transports or privateers, it became almost impossible to find vessels sufficient to export the corn, which was now very plentiful, that were legally qualified to receive the bounty allowed on the exportation of it. It was therefor enacted, that half the bounty should be allowed on the exportation of corn in neutral vessels preceding the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1781. [20 *Geo. III*, c. 31.]

When the American colonies withdrew their allegiance from Great Britain, and the established form of government was consequently dissolved, those, who succeeded to the administration of affairs, either wanted sufficient energy, or were unwilling to run the risk of giving offence to the people by enforcing the collection of taxes sufficient to defray the public charges, and provide for the redemption of their bills of credit. These by the extraordinary charges of the war increased to an amount so disproportionate to the funds for their redemption, that a depreciation of their value soon took place, which, though small at the beginning, increased with such alarming rapidity, that at this time *forty* paper dollars were given for *one* silver one. Indeed, it was difficult, or rather impossible, to fix any standard of value for them; so that no man could know what he was doing in money matters, or could carry on trade with any certainty or regularity, such money being no longer a standard, whereby the value of any property or labour could be ascertained.

Notwithstanding the embarrassments inseparable from the degraded state of the continental currency, the council and assembly of Massachusetts bay incorporated *The American academy of arts and sciences* for promoting improvements in agriculture, arts, manufactures, and commerce, and every art and science tending to advance the interest, honour, dignity, and happiness, of a free, independent, and virtuous, people (May 4<sup>th</sup>). Even if some of these expressions might be ascribed to ostentation and the eagerness of the citizens of a young state to make a parade of their independence, yet a friend of mankind must be pleased to see the arts, which polish and improve human nature, and which generally shrink from the rude blast of war, attempt to raise their heads amidst its storms and ravages.

June 2<sup>d</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>—The metropolis was in the greatest danger of utter destruction by conflagration. A mob, supposed to consist of about 50,000 persons calling themselves the *Protestant association*, after presenting to the house of commons a petition, said to be signed by above 100,000 people, praying for the repeal of an act, which the more liberal policy of the present age had induced the legislature to pass, for moderating the hardships imposed upon the Roman catholics by an act of King William III, proceeded to demolish the Roman chapels, not sparing those of the foreign ambassadors, kept the whole town in terrors; and trampled under foot all law and authority. In resentment for the imprisonment of some of their companions, they set the gaol of Newgate on fire, and gave liberty to the prisoners of all descriptions. Many of these immediately took advantage of the general confusion to set open some of the other prisons; and then, reinforced by the abandoned inmates of them, demolished the furniture, and every other kind of property they could lay their hands on, belonging to Lord Mansfield, Sir John Fielding, and other magistrates who were obnoxious to them. They threatened to destroy the bank, the inns of court, the palaces, and the arsenal at Woolwich; and they actually set fire to the King's-bench and Fleet prisons, New Bridewell, and many houses in various quarters of the town. The bank, the royal exchange, Gildhall, the inns of court, the post-office, St. James's park, Hyde-park, and many private houses, became camps or garrisons for the army and militia, by whose exertions the rioters were at last suppressed, after keeping the town in the most desperate state of anarchy and distress for a whole week. Such were the unhappy effects of religious bigotry and intolerance.

June—Tobacco, the produce of the American colonies now at war with the mother country, used frequently to be bought at the neutral islands in the West-Indies, and carried thence to some of the British islands, where it was reshipped for Britain. As it was thought advantageous to receive it, even with the load of all the circuitous freight, insurance, &c. the doubts, which had arisen concerning the legality of

such importation, were removed by parliament, and the tobacco imported in British vessels admitted to entry during the present hostilities on payment of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  penny per pound of additional duty. [20 *Geo. III*, c. 39.]

An act was passed, for laying several additional duties on goods carried from Britain to the island of Mann; for allowing a drawback on teas carried to it; for allowing vessels, not under 70 tuns\*, carrying herrings from Mann to Madeira and the Mediterranean, to import wines of any country, except France, direct to Mann; and containing also several other regulations for the trade and fishery of that island. [20 *Geo. III*, c. 42.]

The navigation act was so far dispensed with, that every member of the Turkey company was allowed to import into Great Britain or Ireland in neutral vessels the goods usually brought from the Turkish dominions till the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1781; the danger of capture being so great, that the trade could not otherways be carried on. Cotton, imported in foreign vessels, was made liable to a duty of  $1\frac{5}{8}$  penny per pound, without being entitled to any drawback on exportation. [20 *Geo. III*, c. 45.]

Such places in America as were under the protection of the British arms were allowed to have a free commercial intercourse with Great Britain, Ireland, or any of the colonies acknowledging the sovereignty of the mother country. [20 *Geo. III*, c. 46.]

Lord North made a motion in the house of commons, (21<sup>st</sup> March) that notice should be given to the East-India company of the intention of parliament to pay off the capital stock or debt of £4,200,000, together with the interest upon it, due by the public to the company, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 1783 agreeably to the power of redemption in the act of parliament, and the stipulation of three years' notice; after which the company's exclusive privilege would expire. He said, he had expected, that the company would have made some suitable offer of terms for the renewal of their charter; but, though the time was so near, when it would be necessary for government to give notice of repayment, no proposal had hitherto been offered on the part of the company, which came near to the expectation, or right, of the public, who were entitled either to the whole of the territorial acquisitions and revenues, or, if the company were permitted to retain the monopoly of the trade, to a participation of the profits.

The terms proposed by the minister for a renewal of the company's exclusive privilege were, that they should pay down £1,000,000, and also account to the public for three fourths of all the surplus of the profits of their trade above a dividend of *eight per cent*, which they were

\* Till now no vessels under 100 tuns could import wines into the island.



never to enlarge. By this proposal it is evident, that the company were to stand to the risk of all losses without any adequate prospect of profit (for it is to be observed, that £8 was only the bare interest at five per cent upon the average price, which £100 of India stock sold for about this time, and losses in trade might reduce the dividend still lower) while the public, without running any risk at all, were to have, what would in general be, the largest share of the profits.

In the course of the investigation of the East-India company's affairs upon this occasion, the following estimate was made of the state of their joint property, or stock.

|                           |             |                       |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Original stock *          | £3,200,000  | Property in India, }  | £13,000,000 |
| Bonds and other debts     | 1,800,000   | above                 |             |
| Net surplus estate, after |             | Debt due by the       |             |
| deducting original        |             | public                | 4,200,000   |
| stock, as well as         | 15,000,000  | Effects in England, } | 2,800,000   |
| debts                     |             | at least              |             |
|                           | £20,000,000 |                       | £20,000,000 |

From this statement it was asserted, that, in the event of a dissolution of the company, every share of £100 original stock would be worth much more than £500 †.

The final settlement of the business of the charter was postponed for the present by a temporary act of parliament, whereby

July 3<sup>d</sup>—The East-India company were allowed to retain the entire revenue arising from the territorial acquisitions in India, though their debt to the public of £1,400,000 was paid off, and their bond debts reduced to, or under, £1,500,000, till the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 1781, and till then to make dividends not exceeding *eight per cent* per annum; the surplus revenues and profits being reserved for the disposal of a future agreement between the public and the company, who are laid under the same restrictions with respect to accepting bills from India, the government of their settlements, submitting the state of their affairs to the lords of the treasury, and the disposal of their funds, as by the preceding acts (13 *Geo. III*, c. 64.—19 *Geo. III*, c. 61) with the exception of

\* The subscribed stock was £3,200,000. But all the installments paid in by the subscribers amounted only to 87½ per cent, being £2,800,000; and the stock-holders are still liable to a call for the remaining 12½ per cent, amounting to £400,000. [*Account presented by the company to parliament, in 1784.*]

† But by another statement, laid before the company on the 9<sup>th</sup> November, the net balance of their stock in England, India, and China, was only

£5,963,817, exclusive of their possessions abroad and at home, their forts, their house in Leadenhall street, warehouses, &c. all which were valued at above £7,000,000 more; their whole property of every kind being by this estimate somewhat under £13,000,000, instead of £18,200,000. It is evident that the valuation of many branches of their property can only be made by arbitrary estimation.



being indemnified for expending a large sum in building three ships of 74 guns to be presented to the public. [20 Geo. III, c. 56.]

The company were also indulged with time for receiving the drawback on the exportation of some coffee, imported in the year 1775, beyond the period limited by law. [20 Geo. III, c. 58.]

The use of copper sheathing being now universal in the navy, that metal came to be considered as a part of military stores, and as such, it became an object of the attention of the legislature, that it should be carefully guarded against the risk of capture by the enemy. The exportation of it, and even the carriage of it by water from one port of Britain to another, were therefor strictly prohibited. [20 Geo. III, c. 59.]

The whale fishery in the Greenland seas, and that in the Gulf of St. Laurence, being under different regulations, the latitude of 59° 30' was fixed as the legal limit between them. [20 Geo. III, c. 60.]

For the advantage of trade and the honour of this kingdom, the rewards held out for the discovery of the longitude, or improvements in the calculation of it, were continued. [20 Geo. III, c. 61.]

Among the articles of public expenditure the only one meriting to be noted here is that, which gave £10,000 this year, instead of the customary £5,000, to the Levant, or Turkey, company. [20 Geo. III, c. 62.]

July 4<sup>th</sup>—As some counterpoise to the unfriendly operations of the Dutch and the apprehended effects of the Northern armed neutrality, a negotiation was entered into with the king of Denmark for an explanation of the 16<sup>th</sup> article of the treaty of alliance and commerce between Great Britain and Denmark in the year 1670, wherein the species of goods, prohibited to be carried by the subjects of either of the contracting sovereigns to the enemies of the other had been superficially described under the general name of *contrabanda*. It was now agreed that, besides all kinds of artillery, ammunition, arms, armour, soldiers, horses and their furniture, they should also include, under the denomination of contraband, timber for ship-building, pitch, tar, rosin, copper in sheets, sails, canvass, cordage, and in general every article used in fitting out ships; excepting only iron in a rough state, and fir planks. But it was expressly declared, that fish and meat, whether fresh or salted, grain and flour of all kinds, oil, wine, and all other articles for the nourishment and sustenance of life, should be freely carried to any port belonging to the enemies of the other party, provided it is not in a state of blockade\*.

July 17<sup>th</sup>—The parliament of Ireland, having resolved to encourage the cultivation of flax and the manufacture of linen in their own country, repealed the bounties payable on the importation of flax-seed, and

\* The original is published by Mr. Chalmers in his *Collection of treaties*, V. i, p. 97.

applied the annual average amounts thereof; together with that of a new duty now laid on lint-feed oil imported, to encourage the growth of flax-feed and hemp-feed in Ireland, and also to give bounties on the exportation of certain species of Irish linens to Africa, America, Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar, and Minorca; and to Irish sail-cloth exported to any place except Great Britain. It was said that native seed was found to be better and more certain than that which is imported, and it was evidently the interest of the Irish to give every reasonable encouragement to the internal production of materials, on which their staple manufacture depends, and to which their soil and climate are peculiarly suitable.

In the course of an examination into this subject by the lords of trade it appeared, that the British bounties given on the exportation of Irish linens had operated in the following proportions.

In 1743, the first year of the bounty, the Irish linens exported from England were 40,907 yards

1753

1,039,967

1763

2,588,564

1773

2,832,246

It may be observed that the increase was aided by enlarged duties on foreign linens, which took place during that time; though such duties are said to have operated to the prejudice of our own woollen trade by inducing foreign powers to lay reciprocal burthens and restrictions on our manufactures.

The whole Irish linens imported into London and the out-ports of England were in 1743 6,418,375 yards

1773

17,876,617

The total value of linens exported from Ireland, was

in 1741

£480,516

1751

751,993

1761

803,258

1771

1,691,787

and it is estimated, that about seven eighths of the whole quantity exported comes to Great Britain.

That this great increase was more owing to the system of bounties and duties, than to the general increase of our trade, appears from the decrease of the imports and exports of foreign linens at the same periods in London and the out-ports of England, which were as follows.

| Imported.       |           | Exported.       |           |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| 18,584,503 ells | in 1743   | 9,894,837 ells. |           |
| 8,954,649       | 1773      | 4,385,276       |           |
| decrease        | 9,629,854 |                 | 5,509,561 |

The exports of British linens entitled to bounty were

|         |   |   |              |
|---------|---|---|--------------|
| in 1743 | - | - | 52,779 yards |
| 1753    | - | - | 641,510      |
| 1763    | - | - | 2,308,310    |
| 1773    | - | - | 3,279,808    |

besides which the increase in the exportation of the finer linens, not entitled to bounty, has been nearly as great in value, though not in quantity\*.

Upon the whole, the lords of trade gave it as their opinion, that the bounties proposed by the Irish parliament for encouraging the growth of flax-seed and hemp-seed in Ireland 'cannot affect the interests of the linen trade of this kingdom, and are, *so far as bounties may in any case be expedient*, wisely and providently applied by these new provisions to 'promote the interest of the Irish linen trade.'—that the expenses upon the importation of Irish linens to be exported from Britain amount to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, and that consequently, the bounties being equalized in the two kingdoms, the Irish exporter will have an advantage of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent over the British exporter: but the long credits to be given in foreign markets, the uncertainty of returns, the inability of the Irish merchant to assort his cargoes with the vast variety of manufactures and foreign goods to be found in England, together with the difficulty of diverting any trade from its accustomed channel, will long bear hard on the adventurers; though an existing operative advantage in favour of any branch of trade must in all probability ultimately effect its establishment. Should any inconvenience to the trade of Great Britain proceed from the expected superiority of the export linen trade of Ireland, they observe, that, notwithstanding the combined operation of bounties and duties, amounting to near 15 per cent, the foreign manufacturers are still enabled to keep up a competition, especially in the finer linens; and that a small reduction of the duties would therefor bring them as cheap as ever to Great Britain, and with advantage to the revenue. 'It might probably, too, obtain in return a larger consumption of woollen manufactures and other goods upon the continent of Europe.'

'Having observed, that our system of linen bounties and linen duties, *though possibly in many cases exceptionable in the great scale of commercial policy*, has proved an essential encouragement to the Irish staple,' they say, 'we think it right to add, that it has also been the means of

\* For a more particular account of the linens annually exported from England to the end of the year 1771, &c. see above, p. 515. It is worthy of observation, that, from a comparison of the English imports and exports of Irish linens, it appears, that four fifths, or perhaps seven eighths of the whole were consumed by the people of Eng-

land, and those mostly of the finest quality. The lords of trade have reckoned the home consumpt as *at least* four fifths. In the copy of this Report published by Lord Sheffield in his Observations on the trade of Ireland the number of yards of British bounty linen exported in 1773 is 5,235,266; apparently a typographical error.

' *forcing forward an extensive linen manufacture in this kingdom, though struggling under a great disadvantage as to the growth and supply of the raw material* \*.'

August 8<sup>th</sup>—The outward-bound fleets for the East and West Indies, under the convoy of a ship of 74 guns and two frigates, were met by the combined fleets of France and Spain, which almost surrounded them. Our ships of war escaped: but five East-India ships and forty-seven West-India ships were taken. The ships and their cargoes were of such value, that, it is supposed, so rich a capture was never before made upon the ocean; and it certainly was one of the severest blows; that ever the commerce of Great Britain sustained.

In the summer of 1776 Captain Cook failed on a third voyage of discovery in his former ship the Resolution, accompanied by the Discovery, which was commanded by Captain Clerke. In this, as in the former voyages, the officers were men of science, as well as navigators: and, in addition to the naval establishment, Mr. Bailey again embarked as astronomer; Mr. Webber, a German artist, was engaged as painter; and Mr. Anderson, who had already made the circuit of the globe as surgeon of the Resolution, took upon him the observations in the departments of natural history and philology. The chief object of this voyage, besides the improvement of the geography of the globe for the service of navigation and commerce, was to explore the north-west coast of America, and, if possible, to return home by the supposed north-west passage, or by the sea which separates the north part of the continent of America from Europe and Asia. Another object of the voyage was to supply some of the islands of the Pacific ocean with several kinds of useful animals and vegetables, which, if they are allowed to multiply, will add, not only to the comforts of the islanders to whom they are given, but also afford restorative nourishment to such navigators, as opening views of commerce may afterwards induce to resort to those islands.

After visiting some of his former discoveries and several new-found islands in the Pacific ocean, he arrived on the west coast of America in the latitude of 44° 33' north, whence he ranged along the whole of that extensive coast, and having surveyed every opening which promised any probability of a passage to the Atlantic, he at last arrived at the strait which separates America from Asia, passed through it, and failed in the Frozen ocean, till the accumulation of ice rendered a farther progress impracticable. After his return from the Frozen ocean, in order to pass the winter in a temperate climate, this most illustrious navigator, un-

\* Notwithstanding the severe censures thrown out in the house of commons by Mr. Burke against the lords of trade for their deficiency in commercial knowlege, it is no small satisfaction to

me to see, the idea, I ventured to suggest in a note in p. 517, supported by the judgement of men of such eminent abilities, as those who then composed that board.

fortunately for the world, lost his life at Owhyhee, one of the islands discovered in this voyage, by the hands of the natives, with whom he had previously been on the most friendly terms. After his death Captain Clerke made a second attempt to penetrate the Frozen ocean, and met with a second repulse from the ice; which is a sufficient proof, that, though there is no reason to doubt that there is a sea unobstructed by land between the old and new continents, yet the prodigious masses of ice, which are scarcely ever thawed, oppose an everlasting bar, as insuperable as the most solid mountains of rock, to the efforts of the navigator.

In ranging along the coast of America Captain Cook discovered Nootka sound, since become famous from the disputes with Spain concerning it, and as being the earliest, and principal, seat of our fur trade on that coast, the first fruits of which were gathered in this voyage. And during the course of the voyage plans for the most advantageous prosecution of that lucrative trade were projected by Captain Cook, and, after his death digested and matured by Captain King\*.

At the Russian harbour of St. Peter and St. Paul on the east coast of Kamtschatka, where the navigators were treated with the most generous hospitality by Colonel Behm the governor, the officers, and inhabitants, they observed, that, even in that remotest corner of the habitable earth, the manufactures of this country made a principal part of their imported conveniencies†.

The two ships having lost both their captains, arrived in Britain under the command of Messieurs Gore and King, who had embarked as first and second lieutenants of the Resolution, in the month of October 1780.

This brief account of Captain Cook's last expedition ought not to be closed without making honourable mention of the liberality and generosity of the French government, and, in imitation of them, of the Spaniards and Americans, who gave orders to all their ships of war and privateers, in case of meeting with the two weather-beaten ships which had for so many years encountered the hardships of every climate, by no means to offer to molest them, but rather to give them every friendly assistance in their power. Such conduct is a striking mark of the distinction between the humanized warfare of modern enlightened nations, and the indiscriminate massacres of the barbarians of former

\* See *Cook's Third voyage*, V. ii, p. 401; V. iii, p. 438.

† Captain King dwells with great satisfaction on the pleasing ideas of home excited in him by the sight of an old pewter spoon with the word *London* stamped on the back of it. Indeed there is scarcely any part of the world, to which British manufactures have not found their way. From Mr. Stewart's letter to Sir John Pringle (in the

*Philosophical transactions*) we learn, that Mr. Bogle, when at the court of the Lama of Thiber, in the interior part of Asia, saw there many European pictures, looking-glasses, and trinkets of gold, silver, and steel, chiefly English, which he had received by means of the Tartar subjects of Russia, and particularly a Graham's repeating watch, which had been dead, as they said, for some time.



ages. And such was the honourable testimony of applause bestowed by foreigners upon the British voyages of science; voyages, wherein ships of war were employed, not for the destruction, but for the general service, of mankind; and which conferred a dignity on all concerned in them, not excepting even those who embarked in the lower stations, several of whom were so far ennobled by having sailed under Cook, that they afterwards became principals in scientific researches in every quarter of the globe.

No man ever extended the science of geography, that science so fundamentally and essentially useful to extensive navigation, more than Cook, or was a greater ornament to it. To him we are indebted for the discovery, or the improved knowledge, and accurate position, of most of the islands, which have lately been added to the geography of the world, whereby our modern navigators are emboldened to double the formerly-tremendous Cape Horn, and traverse the vast Pacific ocean, with less danger than their predecessors of the fifteenth century incurred in stretching across the Bay of Biscay; and also for the chief information respecting the manners and language of that widely-dispersed race of people, who occupy the innumerable islands scattered between the east coast of Africa and the west coast of America; an extent of more than half the circumference of the globe. To him we are indebted for the complete and final decision of the grand question, which for ages had agitated the minds of speculative philosophers and closet voyagers, upon the *necessary* existence of a great southern continent: and in his last voyage the repeated disappointment in attempting to navigate the opposite polar seas, together with the then-ascertained vicinity of America and Asia, very nearly amounted to a demonstration, that the long-looked-for northern passage is equally visionary. 'The method, which he discovered, and so successfully pursued, of preserving the health of seamen, forms a new æra in navigation, and will transmit his name to future ages amongst the friends and benefactors of mankind. It was reserved for Captain Cook to shew the world, that voyages might be protracted to the unusual length of three, or even four, years in unknown regions, and under every change and rigour of climate, not only without affecting the health, but even without diminishing the probability of life in the smallest degree\*.' If he had never conferred any other benefit on mankind, for this alone

*His name shall live as long as the ocean shall be navigated.*

\* These are the words of Captain King, who wrote the remainder of the voyage, contained in the third volume, after the death of his respected commander. The account of the preceding part of the voyage, contained in the two first volumes, is written by Captain Cook himself; as is also the account of his second voyage, published in two volumes quarto. Thus we find Cook, in addition

to his other great and useful talents, making a very respectable figure as an author. And here it is proper to observe, that the account of the last voyage in three volumes quarto, with a splendid accompaniment of illustrative and ornamental plates, was published at the national expence, as a public tribute of respect to the memory of the worthy commander.



As being connected with Captain Cook's last voyage, I have deferred till now the mention of two attempts to find a passage from Baffin's bay to the westward. The first was conducted by Lieutenant Pickersgill in the armed brig *Lion* during the summer of 1776; and the second was undertaken by Lieutenant Young in the same vessel in the following summer: and the object of both was to endeavour to penetrate to the Pacific ocean, in hopes to meet with Cook coming from it. It is almost needless to add, that neither of these voyages produced any discovery.

October 3<sup>d</sup>—It pleased God to visit the sugar colonies with one of the most tremendous hurricanes that had ever afflicted the West-Indies. In Jamaica it attacked the leeward (or western) end of the island in conjunction with an earthquake and an inundation of the sea, which with one sudden sweep carried away the whole town of Savanna-la-mar (a place of considerable trade) so completely, that scarcely a vestige of a building was to be seen after the retreat of the water\*. In the whole of the two western parishes of Westmoreland and Hanover, and in the adjacent parts of St. James's and St. Elizabeth's, very few houses, trees, or plants of any kind, were left standing. Many white people and negroes, and vast numbers of cattle, perished, and those who survived were destitute of shelter, clothing, and food. General Dalling, governor of the island, as soon as he knew of the desolation, assembled the merchants of Kingston, who, with a generosity worthy of the characters of Britons and West-Indians, immediately sent a supply of necessaries, to the value of £10,000 to the relief of the unhappy sufferers. In the parish of Westmoreland, which comprehends Savanna-la-mar, the damage was computed by a committee, appointed for that purpose, to amount to £950,000 Jamaica currency (£678,571 : 8 : 7 sterling †.)

October 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>—In Barbados the hurricane destroyed almost every house in Bridgetown, which was just recovering from the effects of two dreadful fires, and also most of the houses in the smaller towns and on the plantations all-over the island. All the fruits of the earth of every kind were destroyed. Nearly one half of the cattle, 2,033 slaves, and a great number of white people and free people of colour, were killed. The whole damage done to the property in the island was stated at £1,320,564 : 15 : 0 sterling. The ships at anchor fortunately got out to sea. One good consequence resulting from this calamity was, that

\* It may be necessary to observe, to those who have never seen any houses but such as are built with stone or brick, that the town was built entirely of wood; so that the houses were as liable to be floated off from the ground on which they stood by an inundation, as vessels lying aground are by the flowing of the tide.—When Mr. Edwards

published his History of the West-Indies (1793) Savanna-la-mar was so far recovered as to contain from 60 to 70 houses.

† The sufferers of Jamaica and Barbados also got some relief from parliament in the ensuing year, as will be observed in its place.

the negroes were thenceforth treated with more tenderness, and several machines for abridging their labour were introduced\*.

In Tobago the hurricane was but slightly felt, and did no great damage.

In Grenada, now under the dominion of France, it made great desolation: and it also produced some benefit as an alleviation of the calamity. The devastations committed in this island by the carnivorous ants, and the ineffectual attempts to destroy them, have already been related (p. 610). They had lately decreased in consequence of the decrease of the canes, their principal shelter, as many of the planters had been compelled by their ravages to abandon the cultivation of sugar. But their complete extermination was now effected by the hurricane, which tore up the trees, canes, and other plants, under which they burrowed, and let the water in upon them, which drowned them all. Thus did a dreadful scourge operate in some degree as a blessing by relieving the island from the continual ravages of those invincible vermin†.

All-over the West-India seas vast numbers of ships of war and merchantmen belonging to different nations were lost. Of the crews of two of our frigates wrecked on the coast of Martinique only thirty-one men escaped alive, and they were immediately sent to Commodore Hotham at St. Lucia by the generosity of the marquis de Bouillé, who declared, he could not consider as prisoners of war men whom the fury of the elements had thrown defenceless upon the shore of his government.

The powers of Europe had long beheld with eyes of envy and jealousy the naval superiority of Great Britain; and they hoped, that the secession of the revolted colonies of America, and the alliance of France and Spain with them, would be fully sufficient to humble the power of this country, which stood unsupported by a single ally. But when it appeared, that the maritime force of Great Britain alone was capable of maintaining the arduous conflict against the fleets of France, Spain, and America; and that even the British privateers constituted a naval force sufficient to curb the attempts of the subjects of the neutral powers to convey warlike stores to the enemies of Great Britain, a plan was formed for a more extensive, and more powerful, opposition to, what was called, the maritime tyranny of Great Britain.

Russia is a vast empire, which can pour forth a most formidable army, but which the hand of Nature has shut up from ever becoming a maritime power, or having any immediate connection with the ocean, except in the frozen regions of it, and the almost-un navigated northern extremity of the Pacific. Nevertheless, the empress of Russia, whom

\* See the answers from Barbados in the *Report of the privy council upon the slave trade*. Castles Esq. in a letter to General Melville F. R. S. in the *Philosoph. Transactions*, V. lxxx; p. 346.

† See *Observations on the sugar ants* by John

Great Britain had numbered among the friendly powers, and whose subjects certainly derived a principal part of their commercial emoluments from the trade of this country, now took it upon her to dictate a new code of maritime laws, very unfriendly to the interests and power of Great Britain, and, in short, to assert the empire of the sea.

The empress having previously secured the concurrence of her neighbours (for she was not willing to expose herself singly to the resentment of Great Britain, however encumbered already with powerful enemies) issued a declaration (February 26<sup>th</sup>) addressed to the courts of London, Versailles, and Madrid \*, wherein, after the usual preliminary professions of justice, equity, and moderation, her strict regard for the rights of neutrality and the liberty of commerce, she complained, that her subjects had been often molested in their navigation by the ships of the belligerent powers †; and she proceeded to lay before all Europe the principles adopted by her, which she found 'contained in the laws of the primitive people,' and are comprised in the following points.

I) That neutral ships shall enjoy a free navigation, even from port to port, and on the coasts, of the belligerent powers.

II) That all effects, belonging to the subjects of the said belligerent powers, shall be looked upon as free onboard such neutral ships, except only such goods as are stipulated to be contraband.

III) That her Imperial Majesty, for the proper understanding of this, refers to the articles X and XI of her treaty of commerce with Great Britain ‡, extending her obligations to all the other belligerent powers.

IV) That in order to determine what characterizes a port blocked up, that denomination shall not be granted, but to such places, before which there are actually a number of enemy's ships stationed near enough to make its entry dangerous.

V) That these principles shall serve as rules in the judicial proceedings and sentences upon the legality of prizes.

And then, after announcing, that she had ordered a considerable part of her naval forces to protect the honour of her flag, and the security of the commerce and navigation of her subjects, against whomsoever, without, however, deviating from the strictest neutrality, moderation, and impartiality, she concluded by inviting the belligerent powers to contribute to the accomplishment of her salutary views, and to give instructions to their courts of admiralty and commanders, conformable to the above principles 'drawn from the primitive codes of peoples.'

The new code of maritime laws was speedily communicated to all the courts of Europe. It was greatly applauded by the kings of France and

\* It is not unreasonable to suppose, that it was preconcerted with the courts of Versailles and Madrid, and probably also with the Dutch.

† We must suppose, that she only meant, that they were examined. It was declared in parlia-

ment, that not a single Russian ship had ever been detained by any of our cruisers.

‡ For these articles see the account given of that treaty in p. 449.

Spain; and a civil answer, with professions of friendship, was returned by the king of Great Britain. The king of Denmark sent declarations to the courts of London, Versailles, and Madrid, wherein he adopted almost the very words used by the empress: and the king of Sweden sent a similar declaration to the same courts, and also, in concert with the empress, improved the plan of an alliance comprehending the three northern powers, and inviting the accession of all others, the operations of which, they declared, were to be confined to the sea, and were to be enforced against all nations, who should presume to violate the articles agreed upon by the contracting powers, who immediately put in commission a very respectable fleet consisting of above eighty ships of war. Such was the commencement of the ARMED NEUTRALITY, which henceforward detached a naval force to protect each fleet of the merchant ships belonging to the powers united in the confederacy. And it was not long before a new phenomenon appeared on the south coast of England. A Russian squadron of five ships of the line and a frigate actually arrived in the Channel, in order to give efficacy to the regulations of the empress and her allies, or, indeed, to rule the British sea.

The Dutch must have been very well pleased to behold these proceedings of the northern powers, as they were at least as much interested in the object of their alliance as any of them; yet, such is the characteristic tardiness of their resolutions, that they did not accede to the armed neutrality till the 20<sup>th</sup> of November.

The treaty between the American states and the Dutch, signed in September 1778, which had ever since been most cautiously kept secret, was accidentally discovered by the capture of an American vessel, (September 1780) onboard which Mr. Laurens, late president of the congress, had taken his passage in the quality of ambassador to the States-general. A strong memorial was thereupon given in to the States-general by the British ambassador (November 10<sup>th</sup>), demanding that an exemplary punishment should be inflicted on the pensionary Van-Berkel and his accomplices, as disturbers of the public peace, and violators of the rights of nations. But the States-general being in no hurry to comply with the ambassador's demand, the British government immediately determined on hostilities; and a manifesto was published (December 20<sup>th</sup>), which, after charging them with many acts of enmity, gave notice, that 'such vigorous measures, as the occasion fully justifies,' should immediately be pursued. Accordingly commissions of reprisals against the Dutch were issued at the same time. All their vessels in our harbours were detained: and in a few days, many of their ships, unapprised of the commencement of hostilities, were taken in the adjacent narrow seas.

Thus was Great Britain involved in hostilities with no less than four great maritime powers, each one of whom possessed a greater marine

force than any other nation in the world unconnected with the war; while even those called neutral nations kept up a very considerable navy with designs at best not friendly to Great Britain. And all this formidable combination (for such it may be justly called) of all the ships of the Ocean did not shake the maritime power of this one island.

Mr. Alexander Fordyce, in a petition to the lords of the treasury, represented, that he had invented a method of extracting from sea and rock salt a marine acid and a mineral or fossil alkali of the nature of barilla, fit for the purposes of soap-makers, bleachers, calico-printers, and glass-makers: that he had established a manufacture at South Shields, and proposed to establish another on the west coast of England, if government would exempt him from the very heavy duty payable on salt, for which he adduced several precedents in similar cases. But he alleged, that it would be utterly impossible to carry it on, if the salt, of which three tuns are expended in procuring one tun of pure alkali, is loaded with a duty of 800 per cent above the price of salt in France, or even in Ireland, in both which countries the price of labour is much lower than in England. He stated the value of foreign alkali annually consumed in the manufactures of England and Ireland at £400,000\*, besides what is expended in Scotland, and was confident, that the whole of that sum might be saved to the kingdom by enabling him to carry on his works free of the duty; but that the whole advantage must be utterly lost, if the exemption is denied to him, as he must be ruined, if he were to persist in it on such disadvantageous terms.

In the year 1712 the port of Harwich had only *three* fishing smacks of about 30 or 40 tuns burthen, carrying in all about 20 men and boys. In a few years after the persevering exertions of Richard Orlibar, the owner and master of one of them, in extending his voyages to the Cromar and Dogger banks, encouraged them to attempt to come in for a share with the Dutch in the supply of fresh fish at the London market. About the year 1770, by means of an Englishman who had been in the Dutch fishery, they acquired the method of using long lines in the winter. By the success attending these improvements the fishing smacks of Harwich gradually increased in number and size; and this year there were *seventy-two* of from 45 to 55 tuns, carrying on an average 4 men and 5 or 6 apprentices each †. It is computed that they supply the metropolis with about 2,000 tuns weight of cod, haddocks, whittings, holibut, skate, and coal-fish, fresh or salted. They complain of the restrictions and duties upon salt, which frequently oblige them to throw away their fish rather than cure them, and of the charges at

\* In the custom-house books the value is stated to be £350,000; and it pays on entry a duty of about £11,116.

† The fishery declined from the year 1780; and in 1785 the number of smacks was reduced to 58.

the coast-office in London. The Dutch rival them in the supply of the London market with 40 or 50 vessels from 30 to 70 tons, and by long experience they have attained the art of feeding the market with such nice and sparing exactness, as enables them to keep up a continual exorbitant price.

|   |       |       |                                   |         |         |
|---|-------|-------|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| There belonged this year to all the ports |       |       |                                   |         |         |
| of England                                | -     | 6,689 | vessels of the reputed burthen of | 534,512 | tuns,   |
| and of Scotland                           | 1,493 | -     | -                                 | -       | 84,341  |
| Total                                     | -     | 8,182 | -                                 | -       | 618,853 |

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain, from and to foreign countries, including repeated voyages,

|           | British. |         | Foreign. |         | Total.   |         |
|-----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
|           | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.   |
| Inward -  | 5,170    | 574,934 | 2,015    | 228,496 | 7,185    | 803,430 |
| Outward - | 7,443    | 731,026 | 1,395    | 154,111 | 8,838    | 885,137 |

The net amount of the customs, including the West-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the course of this year, was from the custom-house in London - £2,712,920 8 0  
and from the custom-house in Edinburgh - 11,000 0 0

Total net revenue of the customs of Great Britain £2,723,920 8 0

There was no money coined this year.



The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Christmas 1779 to Christmas 1780 was as follows.

| Countries, &c.            | Imported into   |              | Exported from   |                |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
|                           | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.    | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.      |
| Africa                    | £21,689 0 7     |              | £195,907 14 0   |                |
| Denmark, &c.              | 86,731 4 4      | £24,842 8 10 | 156,125 19 6    | £22,125 2 6    |
| East country              | 299,832 4 9     |              | 60,285 18 3     |                |
| East-India                | 970,726 9 7     |              | 1,116,341 11 4  |                |
| Flanders                  | 873,160 12 11   |              | 1,535,849 4 10  |                |
| France                    | 4,283 4 3       |              | 5,744 0 0       |                |
| Germany                   | 685,110 5 6     | 10,423 8 1   | 1,017,820 2 7   | 11,513 4 3     |
| Greenland                 | 38,158 17 8     | 1,440 0 0    | 165 0 0         |                |
| Holland                   | 643,327 15 3    | 117,095 10 1 | 1,151,064 14 0  | 95,239 1 2     |
| Ireland                   | 1,549,387 11 3  | 194,030 6 5  | 1,930,338 7 4   | 298,046 4 3    |
| Mann                      | 12,970 3 6      | 2,734 15 7   | 20,194 8 6      | 884 5 3        |
| Italy                     | 80,405 6 3      | 1,704 10 2   | 312,600 3 2     | 3,437 9 0      |
| Madeira                   | 2,612 5 4       |              | 51,907 15 5     |                |
| Poland                    |                 | 11,225 14 1  |                 | 904 11 8       |
| Prussia                   |                 | 7,214 9 6    |                 | 73 0 0         |
| Portugal                  | 522,893 18 2    | 28,608 15 1  | 459,673 16 10   | 1,520 18 7     |
| Russia                    | 1,150,429 12 11 | 203,423 8 5  | 161,031 10 5    | 7,098 19 4     |
| Spain                     | 86,398 9 4      | 469 19 3     |                 |                |
| Straits                   | 1,062 19 10     |              | 8,532 0 3       |                |
| Gibraltar                 |                 | 46 5 5       | 46,836 17 7     | 651 17 4       |
| Sweden                    | 144,180 17 1    | 21,194 0 6   | 49,678 10 5     | 1,270 13 1     |
| Turkey                    | 2,463 6 6       |              | 1,797 11 7      |                |
| Venice                    | 85,526 17 7     |              | 28,864 10 11    |                |
| Guernsey, &c.             | 130,867 7 3     | 3,808 8 4    | 70,037 10 2     | 1,485 17 4     |
| America in general        |                 | 83,913 13 9  |                 | 254,386 0 11   |
| Hudson's bay              | 15,017 10 4     |              | 3,622 10 4      |                |
| Newfoundland              | 100,257 4 5     |              | 102,640 13 6    |                |
| Quebec                    | 3,498 3 4       |              | 486,419 17 1    |                |
| Nova Scotia               | 777 11 6        |              | 244,158 6 4     |                |
| New England               | 32 2 7          |              |                 |                |
| New York                  | 15,532 9 3      |              | 496,602 7 5     |                |
| Pennsylvania              | 36 19 4         |              |                 |                |
| Carolina                  | 708 4 0         |              | 236,940 16 2    |                |
| Georgia                   | 2,251 6 4       |              | 91,888 4 8      |                |
| Florida                   | 16,486 8 0      |              | 54,760 13 2     |                |
| West-Indies in general    |                 | 165,421 4 2  |                 | 296,357 14 2   |
| Antigua                   | 57,120 5 8      |              | 106,703 19 3    |                |
| Barbados                  | 120,384 1 6     |              | 254,847 18 5    |                |
| Bermuda                   | 1,229 13 10     |              | 15,556 18 9     |                |
| Grenada                   | 25,063 4 7      |              |                 |                |
| Jamaica                   | 1,541,575 3 11  |              | 728,659 10 11   |                |
| Montserrat                | 44,696 1 2      |              | 11,075 4 5      |                |
| Nevis                     | 45,796 2 8      |              | 17,745 3 2      |                |
| St. Christophers          | 323,445 5 5     |              | 207,562 14 8    |                |
| St. Vincents              | 7 4 4           |              |                 |                |
| Tobago                    | 78,927 5 3      |              | 27,916 11 0     |                |
| Tortola                   | 49,023 6 5      |              | 25,379 4 9      |                |
| New Providence            | 400 8 4         |              |                 |                |
| Bay of Honduras           | 14 1 0          |              |                 |                |
| Musquito shore            | 1,527 3 0       |              |                 |                |
| St. Croix                 |                 |              | 152 7 3         |                |
| St. Eustathius            | 7,688 13 1      |              | 118,249 17 8    |                |
| Curaçao                   |                 |              | 1,760 7 6       |                |
| St. Lucia                 | 137,200 19 3    |              | 53,977 13 6     |                |
| Foreign West-Indies       |                 | 25,130 2 6   |                 | 7,014 4 0      |
| Northern fishery          | 525 14 9        |              |                 |                |
| Southern fishery          | 1,798 2 6       |              |                 |                |
| Prize goods               | 9,983,838 5 1   |              | 11,667,417 8 0  |                |
|                           | 828,401 2 8     |              | 929,721 1 8     |                |
| Imp. and exp. of England  | 10,812,239 7 9  |              | 12,696,138 9 8  |                |
| Imp. and exp. of Scotland | 902,727 0 2     | 902,727 0 2  | 1,002,039 2 10  | 1,002,039 2 10 |
| Total, Great Britain      | 11,714,966 7 11 |              | 13,698,177 12 6 |                |

The foreign trade in corn is by some thought the most important of any, as producing great sums, which are acquired wholly from the fertility of the earth and the labour of the people; while others consider any attempts to extend it beyond the natural limits, which are regulated by the abundance of one country and the deficiency of another, as prejudicial to the general interests of both the exporting and importing countries. As it is at any rate an object of considerable importance, and that in more than one point of view, I shall here exhibit the progress of this very precarious trade in tables of the quantities of grain exported and imported since the commencement of the corn register, which are taken from accounts made up in the custom-house by order of parliament.

|      | Exported from           |                    |                                    |                    |                                    | Imported into |                        |           |                        |  |
|------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|--|
|      | ENGLAND.                |                    |                                    | SCOTLAND.          |                                    | ENGLAND.      |                        | SCOTLAND. |                        |  |
|      | British, quarters.      | Foreign, quarters. | Bounties and drawbacks paid. £ s d | British, quarters. | Bounties and drawbacks paid. £ s d | Quarters.     | Duties received. £ s d | Quarters. | Duties received. £ s d |  |
| 1771 | Wheat and flour 10,039  | Nil                | 6,170 7 6                          | 203                | Nil                                | 2,509         | 13,170 2 1             | 2         | 547 8 11               |  |
|      | Barley and malt 31,160  |                    |                                    | 11,869             |                                    | 228           |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Oats and oatmeal 23,364 |                    |                                    | 3                  |                                    | 198,072       |                        | 14,255    |                        |  |
|      | Beans 13,345            |                    |                                    | 3                  |                                    | 67            |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Peas 3,701              |                    |                                    | 3                  |                                    | 64            |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Barley and bear         |                    |                                    | 2,829              |                                    |               |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Bear and meal           |                    |                                    | 18                 |                                    |               |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Rye                     |                    |                                    |                    |                                    | 2,179         |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Indian corn             |                    |                                    |                    |                                    | 3             |                        |           |                        |  |
| 1772 | Wheat and flour 6,959   | Nil                | Nil                                | 87                 | Nil                                | 23,134        | 2,393 6 10             | 2,340     | 1,372 14 11            |  |
|      | Barley and malt 13,789  |                    |                                    |                    |                                    | 2,107         |                        | 961       |                        |  |
|      | Oats and oatmeal 23,511 |                    |                                    | 242                |                                    | 70,542        |                        | 36,277    |                        |  |
|      | Beans 13,321            |                    |                                    |                    |                                    | 469           |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Peas 3,775              |                    |                                    |                    |                                    | 17            |                        | 4         |                        |  |
|      | Barley and bear         |                    |                                    |                    |                                    |               |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Rye                     |                    |                                    |                    |                                    | 4,799         |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Indian corn             |                    |                                    |                    |                                    | 3             |                        | 1         |                        |  |
|      | Buck-wheat              |                    |                                    |                    |                                    | 1             |                        |           |                        |  |
| 1773 | Wheat and flour 7,637   | Nil                | Nil                                | 106                | Nil                                | 50,312        | Duty free              | 6,545     | Duty free              |  |
|      | Barley and malt 2,445   |                    |                                    | 18                 |                                    | 51,221        |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Oats and oatmeal 18,671 |                    |                                    | 30                 |                                    | 234,366       |                        | 95,088    |                        |  |
|      | Beans 10,733            |                    |                                    |                    |                                    | 49,858        |                        | 4,002     |                        |  |
|      | Peas 4,430              |                    |                                    |                    |                                    | 3,254         |                        | 4,002     |                        |  |
|      | Barley and bear         |                    |                                    |                    |                                    |               |                        | 12,695    |                        |  |
|      | Rye                     |                    |                                    |                    |                                    | 9,253         |                        | 2         |                        |  |
|      | Indian corn             |                    |                                    |                    |                                    | 6,322         |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Buck-wheat              |                    |                                    |                    |                                    | 53            |                        |           |                        |  |
| 1774 | Wheat and flour 15,171  | * 757              | 5,961 12 0                         | 122                | 61 11 10                           | 269,235       | 12,379 4 3             | 19,914    | 1,336 11 8             |  |
|      | Rye 1,434               | 826                |                                    | 9                  |                                    | 41,427        |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Barley and malt 2,416   |                    |                                    |                    |                                    | 155,148       |                        | 86,591    |                        |  |
|      | Oats and oatmeal 16,286 | 25                 |                                    |                    |                                    | 312,908       |                        | 2,505     |                        |  |
|      | Beans 9,443             | 797                |                                    |                    |                                    | 16,401        |                        | 2,705     |                        |  |
|      | Peas 3,211              | 107                |                                    |                    |                                    | 2,780         |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Indian corn             | 1,880              |                                    |                    |                                    | 5,945         |                        | 4         |                        |  |
|      | Buck-wheat              | 50                 |                                    | 495                |                                    |               |                        | 16,360    |                        |  |
|      | Barley and bear         |                    |                                    |                    |                                    |               |                        |           |                        |  |

\* When foreign grain is imported, and not sold, it is permitted by act of parliament to be warehoused without paying duty; and if exported again, it is here arranged under the title of *foreign* to distinguish it from *British*.

|      | Exported from                |                    |                                    |                    |                                    | Imported into |                        |           |                        |  |
|------|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|--|
|      | ENGLAND.                     |                    |                                    | SCOTLAND.          |                                    | ENGLAND.      |                        | SCOTLAND. |                        |  |
|      | British, quarters.           | Foreign, quarters. | Bounties and drawbacks paid. £ s d | British, quarters. | Bounties and drawbacks paid. £ s d | Quarters.     | Duties received. £ s d | Quarters. | Duties received. £ s d |  |
| 1775 | Wheat and flour 28,348       | 62,649             |                                    | 40                 |                                    | 544,641       |                        | 16,347    |                        |  |
|      | Rye 2,471                    | 251                | drawbacks                          |                    |                                    | 33,574        |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Barley and malt 45,454       | 5,940              | 1,798 16 8                         | 20                 |                                    | 126,332       |                        | 13,119    |                        |  |
|      | Oats and oatmeal 22,593      | 3,773              |                                    | 119                | Nil                                | 283,827       | 18,442 18 2            | 100,115   | 1,355 1 5              |  |
|      | Beans 14,075                 | 343                | bounties                           | 3                  |                                    | 29,862        |                        | 1,657     |                        |  |
|      | Peas 4,717                   | 212                | 7,842 10 11                        |                    |                                    | 11,275        |                        | 1,658     |                        |  |
|      | Indian corn 4,323            |                    |                                    |                    |                                    | 9,638         |                        |           |                        |  |
| 1776 | Wheat and flour 174,940      | 32,467             |                                    | 3,247              |                                    | 20,148        |                        | 430       |                        |  |
|      | Rye 10,366                   | 630                | drawbacks                          |                    |                                    | 3,415         |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Barley and malt 129,104      | 2,160              | 786 8 0                            | 422                |                                    | 8,020         | 3,658 5 5              | 479       | 30 12 7                |  |
|      | Oats and oatmeal 21,936      | 8,686              |                                    | 4,365              | bounties                           | 373,707       |                        | 4,859     |                        |  |
|      | Beans 33,338                 | 7,006              | bounties                           | 543                | 1,322 13 9                         | 19,055        |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Peas 6,562                   | 8,043              | 50,925 7 2                         | 543                |                                    | 19,776        |                        | 12        |                        |  |
|      | Indian corn 1,957            |                    |                                    |                    |                                    |               |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Barley and bear              |                    |                                    | 4,428              |                                    |               |                        |           |                        |  |
| 1777 | Wheat and flour 79,120       | 5,914              |                                    | 2,652              |                                    | 233,069       |                        | 254       |                        |  |
|      | Rye 719                      | 227                | drawbacks                          |                    |                                    | 18,454        |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Barley and malt 132,513      | 479                | 102 1 10                           | 3,645              |                                    | 7,981         |                        |           | 0 14 9                 |  |
|      | Oats and oatmeal 16,574      | 12,507             |                                    | 7,233              | bounties                           | 366,155       |                        | 291       |                        |  |
|      | Beans 22,449                 | 7,492              | bounties                           | 422                | 2,426 15 10                        | 35,127        | 8,835 13 9             |           |                        |  |
|      | Peas 6,929                   | 6,742              | 43,250 0 7                         | 422                |                                    | 28,702        |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Indian corn 8                |                    |                                    |                    |                                    |               |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Barley and bear              |                    |                                    | 6,088              |                                    |               |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Buck-wheat                   |                    |                                    |                    |                                    | 10            |                        |           |                        |  |
| 1778 | Wheat and flour 124,698      | 13,077             |                                    | 3,295              |                                    | 106,394       |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Rye 1,089                    | 17                 | drawbacks                          |                    |                                    | 9,327         |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Barley and malt 100,820      | 1,391              | 244 8 6                            | 924                |                                    | 42,514        | 4,890 5 7              | 200       | 14 3 9                 |  |
|      | Oats and oatmeal 20,810      | 8,043              |                                    | 27,690             | bounties                           | 199,680       |                        | 1,490     |                        |  |
|      | Beans 17,787                 | 3,962              | bounties                           | 653                | 3,704 11 6                         | 30,165        |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Peas 9,399                   | 6,221              | 40,101 16 3                        | 653                |                                    | 27,768        |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Barley and bear              |                    |                                    | 795                |                                    |               |                        |           |                        |  |
| 1779 | Wheat and wheat meal 155,003 | 7,781              |                                    | 256                |                                    | 3,508         |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Wheat flour 48,186           | 1,795              | drawbacks                          | 9,239              |                                    | 1,103         |                        | 425       |                        |  |
|      | Rye 3,162                    | 37                 | 97 1 2                             |                    |                                    | 1,693         |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Barley 4,048                 | 2,583              |                                    |                    | bounties                           | 7,085         | 2,849 18 7             |           | 139 18 2               |  |
|      | Malt 71,287                  |                    |                                    | 3,022              | 3,157 0 0                          |               |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Oats 11,291                  | 5,635              | bounties                           | 219                |                                    | 331,858       |                        | 15,984    |                        |  |
|      | Oatmeal 2,475                | 29                 | 51,349 2 6                         | 2,638              |                                    | 669           |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Beans 19,075                 | 6,384              |                                    |                    |                                    | 14,591        |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Peas 13,130                  | 5,106              |                                    | 897                |                                    | 29,154        |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Barley and bear              |                    |                                    | 937                |                                    |               |                        |           |                        |  |
| 1780 | Wheat 63,240                 | 7,067              |                                    | 773                |                                    | 1,662         |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Wheat flour 136,939          | 932                | drawbacks                          | 15,101             |                                    | 1,378         |                        | 873       |                        |  |
|      | Rye 6,305                    |                    | 29 17 1                            |                    |                                    |               |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Barley 32,956                | 2,407              |                                    |                    | bounties                           | 352           |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Malt 135,077                 |                    |                                    | 2,415              |                                    |               |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Oats 8,904                   | 8,726              | bounties                           | 3,330              | 7,232 3 6                          | 189,964       | 10,067 0 11            | 4,667     | 60 11 0                |  |
|      | Oatmeal 916                  | 446                | 70,483 13 5                        | 4,696              |                                    | 612           |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Peas and beans 16,071        | 5,488              |                                    | 1,380              |                                    | 25,125        |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Barley and bear              |                    |                                    | 18,706             |                                    |               |                        |           |                        |  |
|      | Biscuit, cwt....             |                    |                                    | 12,613             |                                    |               |                        | 284       |                        |  |

1781—In the beginning of the year 1781 Mr. Necker, director-general of the finances of France, laid before the king his celebrated work, entitled '*Compte rendu au roi*,' being an account of his administration of the finances of that kingdom.

In the later end of the year 1776 that great financier and honest statesman was placed at the head of the finances of France, which he found greatly deranged, the receipts of the treasury being twenty-four millions of livres (above one million sterling) short of the ordinary expenditure\*. In the following year the French were busily preparing for war; and in the year 1778 they were actually engaged in it. Notwithstanding the extraordinary expenses unavoidable in such a state of affairs, Mr. Necker found means to make the king sensible of the force of that greatest of all maxims of finance, that ECONOMY IS THE SUREST SOURCE OF ABUNDANCE†. And, in consequence of the adoption of so salutary a maxim, the French revenue, from being unequal to the expenditure in time of peace, was so greatly improved, that in the year 1780, while war was raging, there was an excess of 10,200,000 livres above the expenditure, [*Compte rendu*, p. 10] which of course was productive of great advantages in the negotiation of loans, the value of the funds, &c.

Such a system of economy, if persevered in, would have raised the finances of the kingdom to a very high pitch of prosperity and credit. The effects of it were so important, that some of our statesmen, in their speeches in parliament, professed their apprehensions of greater danger to this country from the improved state of the finances, than from the efforts of the armies and fleets, of France. But, if we were in any danger from the reformation of the French finances, it was not probable that it would last long. For the man, who sets himself to check corruption, and to prevent peculation, must soon fall a victim to the interested malice of such a host of speculators, of corrupters and corrupted, as he incenses against himself by his virtuous endeavours to serve the country, to which he has devoted the services and the studies of his life. As a reward for rendering the greatest service to the nation, Mr. Necker was dismissed from his office; and the revenue reverted to its former state of corruption and peculation.

The state of the commerce, current money, and population, of France, as given by Mr. Necker, may be considered as more immediately connected with the nature of this work. The annual average of the imports he states at 230 millions, and that of the exports at 300 millions, of livres. He estimates the current money of the king-

\* Mr. Necker [p. 27] states the annual charge under the name of pensions only (and there were many gratuitous payments under other names) at twenty-eight millions of livres: and he doubts if all the pensions given by all the other sovereigns of Europe amount to half the sum.

† 'Non intelligunt homines, quam magnum vestigal sit parsimonia,' says Cicero, a great statesman of antiquity.

dom to be two thousand millions of livres (*above eighty-seven millions sterling*) in coin \* ; and the yearly coinage of money to be forty or fifty millions of livres. And he estimates the population at twenty-four millions of souls. [*Compte rendu*, pp. 54, 68, 74.]

The war with the Dutch appears to have sunk the price of the three-per-cent consolidated funds, which since the commencement of the war with Spain were between 60 and 62, down to 57½. The depression in the other branches of the funds was, as usual, in proportion to that in the three-per-cents.

The Dutch island of St. Eustathius (called by seafaring people Statia) is not above six miles long. It consists of two hills of rock with very little soil upon them, and has not a single rivulet or spring of fresh water; so that it is not worth occupying for any purpose of cultivation† or comfortable residence. Yet the wonderful industry, and commercial spirit of the Dutch have made it a most valuable possession, and of at least as much importance as any other of the windward islands in the West-Indies. By giving the greatest possible accommodation to all strangers, of whatever nation, this barren island soon became an universal repository for the produce and manufactures of every quarter of the globe: and, as the Dutch were not so often engaged in hostilities as the other maritime powers of Europe, the season of war has at all times been their peculiar and richest harvest. There the Americans with their cargoes of provisions, tobacco, lumber, and naval stores, the French with their wines, brandies, and manufactures, the British with their innumerable manufactures, and the merchants and planters of almost all the neighbouring islands, Spanish, French, &c. flying with their produce to elude the grasp of monopoly, or shun the dangers of warfare, as well as the Dutch, whose stores were filled with every description of the commodities and manufactures of all the world, met as in a great fair, and without any restraint, or taking the smallest concern in the quarrels in which their respective sovereigns might happen to be engaged, transacted their sales and purchases in this truly *free port* and general magazine of all nations. Hence an island, which produces almost nothing, used to ship more produce for Europe than many of the fertile sugar

\* Necker [p. 68] says, 'Il n'est aucune conquête, il n'est aucune alliance, qui puisse valoir à votre Majesté ce qu'elle pourra tirer un jour du développement de ses propres forces. L'effort de l'agriculture et de l'industrie par la bonne répartition des impôts, l'effort du crédit par la sage administration des finances, voilà tout ce qui manque à la puissance d'un royaume, qui contient vingt-quatre millions d'ames, et deux milliards d'argent monnoyé.' A prodigious sum! but the character of the man does not allow us to impute any part of it to gasconade. This sentence, containing so much wisdom in so few words,

was worthy of being transcribed entire. If the king, to whom it was addressed, had regulated his conduct by such maxims, his country might then have enjoyed peace with a most flourishing commerce; and he might have been still living and reigning. M. de la Place, and some other calculators, about the same time calculated the population of France at considerably above twenty-five millions. [*Mem. de l'academie*, A. D. 1783, p. 693.]

† There are, however, two or three plantations in the valley between the two hills, which produce a small quantity of sugar.

colonies in its neighbourhood; a prodigious stream of wealth flowed in upon the Dutch, through whose agency most of the business was transacted; and money was plentier there than in any other of the West-India islands.

The great accommodation, which the trade of St. Eustathius afforded to the enemies of Great Britain, pointed it out as the first object to be attacked by the British forces after the commencement of hostilities against the Dutch. And accordingly Admiral Rodney and General Vaughan with a great force invested the island (February 3<sup>d</sup>), which, being totally unprepared with any means of defence, was immediately surrendered at discretion. Above 150 vessels, many of them richly loaded, were found in the bay, besides a Dutch frigate of 38 guns, and five vessels of from 14 to 26 guns. The stores on the island were full of produce and goods of all kinds; and the very beach was covered with hogsheds of sugar and tobacco. Every species of property found on the island, whomsoever it belonged to, was made prize of, to the amount, as was estimated, of above three millions sterling; a measure which afterwards became the subject of severe animadversion in parliament. The conquerors, by keeping the Dutch flag flying, entrapped 17 more vessels, which quietly and securely sailed into their possession. Moreover, having learned that a rich fleet of about 30 large ships had sailed for Europe under the convoy of a Dutch ship of 60 guns only two days before their arrival, the admiral dispatched Captain Reynolds with three ships in pursuit of them, who next day (February 4<sup>th</sup>) came up with them, and took the Dutch ship of war with every one of her convoy. At the same time three large ships from Amsterdam with naval stores of all kinds were also taken by the fleet, and sent to the royal dock-yard at Antigua.

When the British forces arrived off St. Eustathius, a detachment was sent to reduce the Dutch island of Saba (the inhabitants of which had little concern either in commerce or warfare, being gardeners and planters of cotton) and the island of St. Martin's also belonging to the Dutch; and both surrendered at discretion (February 5<sup>th</sup>).

March 14<sup>th</sup>—The Dutch continental colonies of Demararay and Iffequibo (called by seamen Ifacape) on the coast of South America, were also reduced to the dominion of Great Britain by Admiral Rodney and General Vaughan. All the floating property\*, and the property of the Dutch West-India company, were seized; but the inhabitants of these colonies were more favourably treated than those of St. Eustathius, and permitted to retain their property on the land. Berbicia, another

\* A considerable number of Dutch merchant ships had been taken by some British privateers in the river Demararay before the capture of the colony; and as they had no commissions to act against the Dutch, their prizes became a *droit* of the admiralty.



Dutch settlement on the same coast, was also taken, together with several vessels, by two privateers.

Admiral Rodney, from the information of the Dutch colonists, stated the annual produce of Demararay and Iſſequibo to be 10,000 hogſheads of ſugar, and rum in proportion; 5,000,000 pounds of coffee; 800,000 pounds of cotton; beſides cacao and indigo: and he gave it as his opinion, that in the hands of Great Britain they might ſoon be brought to produce a vaſt deal more, and might employ more ſhips, and yield more revenue, than all the Britiſh Weſt-India iſlands.

This rapid career of conqueſts at the commencement of the war with the Dutch, was moſt diſtreſſing to all the enemies of Great Britain, who uſed to find every thing neceſſary for carrying on their warlike operations at St. Euſtathius: and it was abſolutely ruinous to the Dutch, and alſo to vaſt numbers of merchants in the Weſt-Indies belonging to the other nations concerned in the war, as it overturned the whole ſyſtem of their commerce in that quarter of the world.

March 16<sup>th</sup>.—The ſmall French iſland of St. Bartholemew was alſo reduced by the Britiſh forces at the ſame time. It was of little conſequence in a commercial view, (its only produce being a ſmall quantity of cotton) unleſs in depriving the French privateers of the ſhelter, which, according to Admiral Rodney's diſpatches to government, they uſed to find there.

The whole property of every kind found upon the iſland of St. Euſtathius having been ſeized upon the ſurrender of it, it was ſold by order of the admiral and general by public auction, which commenced on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, and laſted till the beginning of May, advertisement having been previously made in the neighbouring iſlands, that all purchaſers ſhould have whatever they bought properly ſecured to them, and ſhould be allowed to ſhip their goods either in Britiſh or neutral bottoms, and either for Britiſh or neutral ports. It was aſſerted, that the goods were ſold for about one fourth of their value; and Mr. Burke alleged in the houſe of commons, that by means of thoſe ſales the French and Americans were ſupplied with ſtores from St. Euſtathius fifty per cent cheaper than they could formerly have had them from the Dutch, and that thereby the profeſſed purpoſe of the rigorous proceedings againſt the inhabitants of the iſland was directly counteracted.

The merchants of St. Chriſtophers, as ſoon as they heard of the indifcriminate confiſcation of private property in St. Euſtathius, much of which belonged to themſelves as proprietors or conſignees, had preſented a memorial to the two commanders, reclaiming their property; which being reſuſed, they tranſmitted by the hands of Mr. Glanville, the ſolicitor-general of their iſland, a ſecond very ſtrong memorial and remonſtrance, 'for themſelves, and as agents and factors for many of 'the moſt commercial houſes in Great Britain and Ireland,' wherein

they represented, that the property belonging to themselves and their correspondents in Great Britain, for whom they were agents, which was fairly bought under the sanction of acts of parliament, was forcibly taken from them, without permitting them even to mark or number the packages, or to know in what vessels they were to be shipped, while insurances were already made at home on ships, which were engaged to carry the goods to Great Britain. They therefor gave notice to the commanders, that they should hold them accountable for all damages to be sustained in consequence of the detention of their property and the annulment of their insurances, and should seek redress for their damages from the laws of their country: and they demanded permission for their partners and factors at St. Eustathius to ascertain the amount of their goods shipped off under their authority. They also warned their excellencies of the fatal consequences of setting such an example to their enemies, who by the fate of war might become masters of the British islands; that the consequence of such a mode of warfare must be the ruin, not only of every one concerned in the islands, but also of their generous creditors at home, who were so liberally supporting the expense of the war by subscriptions. And they held up as a warning and example to them the conduct of the comte d'Estaing at Grenada, who by issuing edicts to forbid the payment of debts due in Great Britain, though he seized no private property, drew upon himself the universal detestation of the enlightened people of France, in consequence of whose remonstrances, carried to the throne of an absolute monarch, his conduct was severely reprobated, his edicts were rescinded, and the British inhabitants of Grenada were put upon the same footing with the French subjects.

Admiral Rodney gave a very brief answer, signifying, that he had not leisure to peruse the memorial; that he was surprised that British subjects should lodge their property in an island, where, they must know, it was to be applied to the service of the enemies of their country; and that he considered every thing on the island as Dutch, and was firmly resolved to treat it as Dutch.

April 6<sup>th</sup>—The merchants in Britain were too deeply interested in the property seized at St. Eustathius to sit down unconcerned spectators of the event. They commenced actions against the commanders\*, and they also presented a petition to the king in the following words†.

\* After litigations, protracted through several years, the admiral and general were cast in many suits for heavy sums.

† I by no means approve of a large book, and very seldom load my work with long transcripts:

but every sentence of this petition is so full of commercial argument and commercial facts, that I thought, I could not do justice to it, or to the reader, without giving it entire.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

*The petition of the West-India planters and merchants most humbly sheweth,*

That your petitioners have very considerable property, and debts due to them in the several islands in the West-Indies subject to the crown of Great Britain, as also in the islands of Grenada, the Grenadines, Dominica, and St. Vincent, which have in the course of the present hostilities fallen under the dominion of France.

That they have always conceived it to be a maxim among civilized nations, established in humanity and sound policy, that war should be carried on with the least possible injury to private property found in any countries or towns, which may be invaded or conquered; the happy effects of which wise principle your petitioners have hitherto experienced in the security of their estates and effects from rapine and plunder, which have been reciprocally discountenanced by the governors in the West-Indies, as ruinous to individuals, and productive of no decisive advantage to any of the sovereign states concerned.

Your petitioners are therefor seriously alarmed at the general seizure, made by the commanders of your Majesty's sea and land forces, of goods, merchandize, and specie, found in the islands of St. Eustatius and St. Martin, on their surrendering without resistance, and at discretion, to the said commanders; humbly conceiving, that the inhabitants of places which submit to the will, and surrender themselves to the discretion, of an invading enemy, immediately upon such submission become the subjects of that sovereign, or state, to whom the victorious army belongs; and consequently by their allegiance are entitled to security in their persons and property; it being as repugnant to policy as humanity to permit one class of subjects to plunder another, the trader having an equal claim with the soldier to the protection of government.

Your petitioners humbly beg leave to represent to your Majesty, that those Dutch islands did belong to a sovereign state, by whose authority and permission they were made, and have ever since been, *free ports*; and that they have been recognized as such by Great Britain and all the other maritime powers of Europe, who have possessions in the West-Indies.

That Great Britain, in particular, has never interdicted, or prohibited, to her subjects the trade of those Dutch islands, but has on the contrary permitted the exportation of great quantities of various articles of goods of the growth, produce, and manufacture of this country, which have been regularly, and openly, entered out at the several ports of this kingdom for the said Dutch islands.

‘ That an act \* was passed last session of parliament for removing any legal doubts arising out of the Navigation act, respecting the importation of tobacco of the growth of the colonies in North America, which, having escaped British capture, had been imported from the colonies in rebellion into those Dutch islands, declaring and enacting, that such tobacco might be legally imported from those, or any other neutral islands, into any British island, and from thence into Great Britain;’ by which act the trade to the said islands of St. Eustatius and St. Martin, which had always been in many respects legal, became an object of public encouragement, by being extended beyond what the strict construction of law seemed formerly to authorize.

‘ That since the passing the said act, and even before, during the present rebellion, a great part of the tobacco, absolutely necessary for the consumption and revenue of Great Britain, has been imported through that channel to the manifest benefit of the navigation of this kingdom: for, if the market had not been supplied by those means, there would have been an indispensable necessity for admitting tobacco from Holland, after having been carried thither from those islands in Dutch vessels; and Great Britain would, consequently, have been deprived of the profit arising from the long navigation of that bulky commodity.

‘ That since the commencement of the American rebellion the said islands of St. Eustatius and St. Martin have been frequently of the most essential service to the British Leeward islands, particularly in the years 1777 and 1778, when the islands of Antigua and St. Christopher would have suffered all the miseries of actual famine, had not they drawn from St. Eustatius those supplies which they formerly received from North America.

‘ That since the capture of Grenada, the Grenadines, Dominica, and St. Vincent, those islands have been principally supplied with the several necessaries for their consumption, and for the cultivation of their plantations, through the medium of St. Eustatius, and that many British subjects, having property in those captured islands, have been obliged to establish houses in the said island of St. Eustatius, for the express purpose of supplying those islands, and have ordered various articles to be shipped for St. Eustatius from Great Britain, as well as from Holland †.

‘ That the great want of plantation stores and other necessaries in those captured islands has also obliged many of the planters to ship from time to time a great part of the produce of their plantations to St. Eustatius for the purpose of purchasing such plantation stores and necessaries.

\* 20 Geo. III, c. 39.

† See the annual tables of imports and exports since the commencement of the war.

‘ That many of your Majesty’s faithful and loyal subjects, on the faith of Great Britain having recognized the trade, have settled as general traders in those Dutch islands, and have considerable property in goods, merchandize, and money, in the said islands; and that others of your Majesty’s most faithful and loyal subjects, as agents for the Dutch, as well as British, merchants in those islands, have shipped considerable quantities of goods and merchandize on account of the said merchants.

‘ That those Dutch islands, particularly St. Eustatius, have therefore been, and ought to be, considered as free ports, open to all the world, where the subjects of all states in amity with Holland were equally welcome, where the goods imported by the hand of commerce were at open market, ready to be sold to the best bidder, without favour and affection, without any partial, or political, attachment or predilection to any of the powers at war, without regard to any other object than that of mercantile profit, which is the spring and soul of all commerce whatever; and that the value of the said islands to that sovereign power to which they belonged, as well as to your Majesty’s subjects and other nations, consisted in their being universal open marts, and not in the inconsiderable production of their soil.

‘ Your petitioners humbly beg leave to represent to your Majesty, that, as a very considerable part of the property found in those Dutch islands must necessarily belong to many of your Majesty’s most faithful and loyal subjects, from the causes above stated, so there are likewise others of your Majesty’s subjects residing in Great Britain and the British Leeward islands, who are large creditors of the Dutch and British merchants in those Dutch islands, not only on account of goods and merchandize openly and avowedly shipped by them, as the agents of the said merchants, but also in respect of dealings and engagements antecedent to, and unconnected with, the trade carried on by such their debtors in those islands.

‘ With respect to the property found in the said islands belonging to the subjects of the states of Holland, or any other of your Majesty’s enemies, your petitioners, having already stated what they humbly conceive to be the humane and political practice of war, feel themselves impelled by the principle of gratitude to present to your royal view the conduct of the commanders of the French king’s forces, and of the court of France, in the case of the conquest of the islands of Grenada and the Grenadines.

‘ When the island of Grenada, after having made a zealous, but unsuccessful, defence against the enemy’s force, surrendered at discretion, there was no plunder allowed, except on the Hospital hill, which was taken by storm, and where the small effects, that were lodged, necessarily fell *in furore belli* to the first of the assailants who could lay

‘ their hands upon them. The goods and merchandize in the town of St. George in that island, to a very large amount, not merely intended for the use and consumption of the island, but for the general market of the West-Indies, remained untouched; and every species of property whatever was left inviolate, even the goods upon the keys and beach in various parts of the island.

‘ There were indeed certain ordinances issued by the French government on taking possession of the said island, by which the produce of all plantations belonging to absentees was to be sequestered until a peace; and the payment of all debts due to your Majesty’s subjects, residing in any part of your Majesty’s dominions, was prohibited under pain of military execution. But, on the application of the parties interested to the court of France, those ordinances were immediately revoked by his Most Christian Majesty, and all persons whatever, whether present or absent, were secured in the full possession of their estates and effects; his Most Christian Majesty, having been pleased at the same time to express his disapprobation of those ordinances, as tending to injure civil contracts, which are founded on the law of nature, and which form the most sacred bond of society, being the principal source of that reciprocal communication and intercourse subsisting between the subjects of all nations; to which contracts, and to private property in general, the practice of war, among civilized states, has ever had the most tender regard.’

‘ Your petitioners, likewise, with pleasure reflect, that your Majesty, in the very beginning of your reign, gave a striking example of clemency upon the capture of Dominica, the inhabitants of which island were settled there against express treaties, unacknowledged by any sovereign, professing neutrality, yet exercising hostilities against your Majesty’s subjects; and, when summoned to submit to your Majesty’s arms, not only refused to surrender, but, provoking an assault, were reduced sword in hand.—Yet by your Majesty’s wisdom and generosity, the inhabitants of that island were preserved in the possession of all their property.

‘ Your petitioners do not conceive, that those defenceless Dutch islands were surpris’d, and taken possession of, by your Majesty’s arms for the sake of inglorious spoil, but merely with a view to great political objects in conducting the present hostilities against the combined enemies of Britain, by depriving them in future of the convenience and advantage of those marts. They have ever considered Great Britain as priding herself in acts of generosity and humanity, not less than in brilliant achievements of valour in war: and they are confident, that your Majesty will not permit the British name to be stained by a departure from that line of conduct, which has hitherto so peculiarly characterized this nation, and her sacred regard to the rights of mankind.



‘ They beg leave to repeat to your Majesty, that the confiscation of private property in those Dutch islands would grievously affect many of your Majesty’s most faithful and loyal subjects, who have traded there under the sanction of our laws, or who are creditors of merchants in the said islands; and at the same time to state to your Majesty their apprehensions, that such a measure, so far as it would injure the property of the subjects of the enemy, must necessarily tend to increase the calamities of war, by exciting desperate resistance, by exasperating our foes against the trading inhabitants of those islands which may hereafter be obliged to submit to their arms, and by establishing a prædatory system, destructive and ruinous in its consequences to individuals, and of no solid benefit to the several states concerned.

‘ Your petitioners, therefor, do most humbly, but fervently, pray, that your Majesty will be graciously pleased to take the premises into your serious consideration, and remove the apprehensions of your petitioners by adopting such measures on the present occasion, as to your Majesty in your great wisdom, justice, and clemency, shall seem meet.

‘ Signed by order, and in the name, and on the behalf, of the West-India planters and merchants,

‘ WILLIAM CRICHTON,  
Chairman of the general meeting  
on this special business.’  
‘ London, April 6, 1781.

‘ The Portuguese, after strictly prohibiting the importation of cotton goods from Britain, now refused to admit woollen goods and printed linens from Ireland; a measure, which was suspected by the Irish to have originated in England.

March 12<sup>th</sup>—The regulations concerning the admission of prize goods into the kingdom being now extended to prizes taken from the Dutch, some others were enacted, respecting the sale of, and duties upon, East-India goods condemned as prize in the port of London; for permitting the purchasers of prize goods condemned abroad to import such goods into this kingdom, as well as the captors, and for reducing the duties on foreign prize tobacco. [21 Geo. III, c. 5.]

The permission to import Italian organized silk was prolonged till the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1782. [21 Geo. III, c. 6.]

The permission to navigate merchant ships with foreigners for three fourths of their complement was also prolonged for the same time. [21 Geo. III, c. 11.]

March 22<sup>d</sup>—Twelve millions were raised this year for the service of government by a loan, and £480,000 by a lottery. The terms of the loan were £150 in the three-per-cent consolidated fund, and £25 in the

four-per-cent consolidated fund, for every £100 paid in; with a privilege to the subscribers of £1,000 to have four lottery tickets at £10 each.

By this bargain, to say nothing of the *douceur* (or in the jargon of stock-jobbing the *bonus*) of the lottery tickets, the real permanent interest payable for the money borrowed was *five and a half per cent*, besides the charge for management; and the capital of the debt created, instead of *twelve millions*, was *twenty-one millions*, which may actually require *twenty-one millions* to cancel it. The terms of the loan were severely animadverted upon in both houses of parliament; and it was affirmed by some members, that the minister's friends were enabled to pocket nine or ten per cent on the sums affixed to their names the very next day, without advancing one penny. Such high interest with government security evidently makes it extremely difficult, if not quite impossible, for individuals to borrow any money *upon legal interest*, either for the extension of commerce and manufactures, or the improvement of agriculture.

March 29<sup>th</sup>—The discounts, hitherto allowed on the duties payable on the importation of foreign goods, were now repealed; and additional duties were imposed, of  $1\frac{3}{4}d$  on every pound of tobacco, and  $4/8$  on every 112 pounds of sugar, together with a further charge of five per cent upon these additional duties. [21 *Geo. III*, c. 16.]

The additional five per cent was also extended to most of the excise duties. [21 *Geo. III*, c. 17.]

April 11<sup>th</sup>—Flax and flax-seed were allowed to be imported into Great Britain and Ireland in neutral vessels from the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 1781 till the termination of the war.

The king of Prussia having joined his small maritime force to the armed neutrality, which, upon his accession to it, comprehended all the powers, whose dominions border on the Baltic sea, a new article was thereupon added to their maritime code, declaring, that the Baltic sea, on account of its inland and inclosed situation, ought to be preserved free for the safe navigation of the ships of all nations, and that no war-like ships, belonging to the belligerent powers or their subjects, should be permitted to enter it, with a view to commit hostilities against the subjects of any state whatsoever. The king of Great Britain so far approved of the resolution of the northern powers, as to issue a proclamation (April 21<sup>st</sup>), prohibiting all British ships of war and privateers from molesting any vessels in the Baltic sea.

The freedom of navigation was a most important object to the nations situated on the shores of the Baltic, who were reaping such a golden harvest from the heavy expenses of the belligerent powers, as they had never at any time enjoyed before. The oak forests of Great Britain are very from being sufficient to supply the building yards in time of

war; France and Spain have almost no building timber; and Holland has none at all. Therefor almost all the oak timber consumed in the fleets of the European belligerent powers, and also the masts, yards, iron, hemp, and sail-cloth, were brought from the countries bordering on the Baltic; where they were bought with ready money, the inhabitants of those regions not being so far advanced in the improvements, or the corruptions, of civilization, as to require many of the fine manufactures or the luxuries of the more polished nations of Europe\*.

May 2<sup>d</sup>—A great number of vessels loaded with the plunder of St. Eustathius, which were on their way home under the convoy of four ships of war, were met by a French fleet, which took all the merchant ships except nine. The ships of war, which had onboard most of the treasure, made their escape.

May 9<sup>th</sup>—Pensacola, the capital of our new province of West-Florida, was besieged by the Spanish governor of Louisiana, and, after a gallant defence by Governor Chester and General Campbell, was obliged to surrender to the superior force of the enemy, who granted the garrison honourable terms, and treated them with great generosity.

June 2<sup>d</sup>—The island of Tobago was attacked by the French forces commanded by the marquis de Bouillé and the comte de Grasse. Governor Ferguson and the planters, with the help of a few regular soldiers, and some sailors, and a few negroes, the whole number in arms being only 427 men, made a gallant defence, which they kept up from the 23<sup>d</sup> of May to the 2<sup>d</sup> of June, when they surrendered the island to the very superior force of the enemy†. The marquis, with his usual generosity, granted the inhabitants the same liberal terms he had granted to those of Dominica. And thus was this fine island, after being brought from a wilderness to a state of high cultivation by the efforts of British industry and capital, transferred to the dominion of France.

May 18<sup>th</sup>—The duties upon paper were repealed; and new duties, to be rated according to the value and size of the paper, were established. [21 Geo. III, c. 24.]

The act of last session, [c. 45] allowing the members of the Turkey company to import their goods in neutral bottoms, and laying a duty on cotton imported in such vessels, was prolonged till the end of the war. [21 Geo. III, c. 26.]

\* The drain of money occasioned, by these importations was felt, for some years after the war, in France; and they were actually proposing in the year 1784 to make a law for coining the silver plate belonging to private individuals into money, and to prohibit the waste of gold in gilding and ornaments. The quantity of money, sent from Britain for the produce of those countries, may be judged of by running the eye over the accounts

of our imports and exports with Russia, Sweden, Poland, and Prussia, or the countries comprehended under the name of the East country, during the war.

† A reflection was thrown out by Admiral Rodney in parliament, that the guns, he had sent to Tobago in the preceding year, were allowed to lie unmounted. It ought to be remembered, however, that guns are of no use without men.

For the same reason the produce of the Portuguese colonies was allowed to be imported in Portuguese vessels from Portugal, or from the islands of the Azores and Madeira. Wool of all sorts, linen yarn, barilla, and jesuit's bark, were also allowed to be imported in any neutral bottoms, on paying alien's duty, during the war. [21 *Geo. III*, c. 27.]

The following acts were continued for limited times, viz.

The free ports in Jamaica (those of Dominica being shut) were continued open till 1<sup>st</sup> November 1787.

The free importation of sago powder and vermicelli from the British colonies in America was continued till 1<sup>st</sup> December 1796.

The free importation of raw hides from Ireland and America was continued till 1<sup>st</sup> June 1786.

The commercial intercourse with such places in America, as were under the protection of the British arms, was prolonged till 1<sup>st</sup> June 1782.

The act for preventing frauds relating to the customs was prolonged till 29<sup>th</sup> September 1788.

The act to prevent the danger of infection by smuggled goods, and subjecting copper ore produced in the British colonies to the regulations provided for other enumerated commodities, was continued till 29<sup>th</sup> September 1788.

The act for encouraging the growth of coffee in the British colonies, except that part of it which relates to foreign coffee, was continued till 24<sup>th</sup> June 1788.

The act for preventing frauds, committed by bankrupts, was prolonged till 29<sup>th</sup> September 1785.

So much of the act for permitting the exportation of wheat, &c. to certain foreign settlements, as relates to the sugar colonies, was continued till 1<sup>st</sup> May 1782.

The act prohibiting copper from being exported, or even carried along the coast, was continued till 1<sup>st</sup> April 1783.

The drawback allowed on rum, shipped as stores, was continued till 1<sup>st</sup> April 1783.

And the act for allowing a bounty on the exportation of corn in neutral vessels was continued till 25<sup>th</sup> March 1782. [21 *Geo. III*, c. 29.]

Verdigris used formerly to be made nowhere in Europe but in the south parts of France: but for some years past Messieurs Bindley and Maud had produced, from their works at Newham in Gloucestershire, verdigris, which upon trial by chymists, coach-painters, paper-stainers, hatters, and others, was found in all respects equal to the best French verdigris. In the year 1763 Mr. Bindley had received a premium of £50 from the patriotic society for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce, and also in 1764 another premium of £100, as an

encouragement for introducing in Britain the manufacture of so valuable an article, without which, it is asserted, that not a single hat can be dyed. Therefor, in consequence of the manufacture being now fully established at home, parliament laid a duty of  $3\frac{3}{4}d$  per pound on common verdigris, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  shilling on the chrystallized, to be paid on importation, without allowing any drawback on re-exportation. [21 *Geo. III*, c. 32.]

June 19<sup>th</sup>—In compliance with the application of several manufacturers, the exportation of all machines, tools, and utensils, used in the woollen, cotton, or silk, manufactures, or of any models or plans of such machines, &c. was most strictly prohibited: and the custom-house officers allowigg such to be shipped, and also the commanders of vessels taking them onboard, were subjected to heavy penalties. [21 *Geo. III*, c. 37.]

The owners of vessels being liable to lose them for acts of smuggling committed by the commanders or seamen, it was enacted, that every master or commander of a vessel, concealing uncustomed goods onboard his vessel, shall forfeit to the owners all his wages and triple the value of the goods so concealed: and mates and seamen shall also forfeit their wages, and ten shillings for every gallon of spirits concealed by them over the quantity allowed by law. [21 *Geo. III*, c. 39.]

July 5<sup>th</sup>—The rewards offered for any improvement in the method of ascertaining the longitude, or other improvements useful to navigation, were further continued by parliament. [21 *Geo. III*, c. 52.]

This year the Levant, or Turkey, company received an aid of £8,000 instead of the customary £5,000, from the public. And, in compliance with the petitions of the planters and merchants concerned in the islands of Jamaica and Barbados, and also of the lord mayor and corporation of the city of London, parliament granted £80,000 for the relief of the sufferers by the dreadful hurricane of last October in Barbados, and £40,000 for those in Jamaica, who had suffered by the same calamity: and they ordered, that both sums should be paid free of any deductions of taxes or fees. [21 *Geo. III*, c. 57.]

As the charter of the bank of England was to expire in the year 1785, that company made a proposal to lend the public two millions for three years at an interest of three per cent, one million to be paid on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November next, and the other on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 1782, on condition of obtaining a renewal of their privilege of exclusive banking and other advantages, to be continued to them till the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 1812, and a notice of twelve months after that time; upon which notice, and the payment of the money advanced to the public being completed, the bank may be dissolved. These conditions were approved of, and ratified by parliament. [21 *Geo. III*, c. 60.]

July 18<sup>th</sup>—Orchillia weed and cobalt were permitted to be imported free of duty in British, Irish, or neutral, vessels during the war. And



sugars produced in the colonies of Demararay and Iſſequibo (or Eſſequibo) lately taken from the Dutch, were allowed to be imported as Britiſh ſugars, notwithstanding the act, [6 *Geo. III, c. 52*] which conſidered as foreign all ſugars imported from the *continent* of America. [21 *Geo. III, c. 62.*]

The Eaſt-India company made up an account of the profits of their trade and territorial revenues to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March 1781, whereby there appeared a balance, after paying £400,000 to the public according to agreement, of £288,025 : 17 : 10. This ſum they were afterwards authorized to pay in dividends to the proprietors of the ſtock : but they choſe rather to employ it in their trade ; and they have kept a diſtinct account of it under the title of *The company's ſeparate fund*, which they have annually credited with intereſt.

The ſervants of the Eaſt-India company had engaged in hoſtilities with the Mahrattas, a fierce and warlike nation of freebooters, whom the Moguls, when in the zenith of their power, had never been able to reduce to their dominion. At the ſame time they were alſo at war with Hyder Ally, a prince of capacity and power, beyond any that had ever appeared in that part of the world. In conjunction with theſe two great powers, almoſt all the leſſer princes of Hindooſtan were confederated againſt the intereſts of the company ; and they were, moreover, aſſiſted by the French, of whom Hyder had a conſiderable number in his own army. Hyder defeated a Britiſh army commanded by Colonel Baillie (10<sup>th</sup> September 1780), over-ran the whole country belonging to the company and their allies, and (31<sup>st</sup> October 1780) took the city of Arcot, the capital of a nabob, who had long been very cloſely allied with the preſidency of Madras, whereby he threw the whole of the company's affairs in that quarter into the utmoſt confuſion and diſtreſs, which were not a little aggravated by the diſſenſions, which at the ſame time diſtracted the counſels of that preſidency. In ſhort, from the concurrence of ſo many diſaſters, many people were induced to think the ſituation of the company's affairs utterly deſperate. Sir Edward Hughes gave the firſt turn to this run of adverſity in India, by deſtroying ſeveral warlike veſſels belonging to Hyder in Mangalore, his principal port (8<sup>th</sup> December 1780). And afterwards Sir Eyre Coote, having arrived in March 1781 with a ſmall reinforcement from Bengal, and aſſumed the command of the army, the affairs of the company began to put on a more proſperous appearance. That able commander regained ſeveral of the places, which had ſubmitted to Hyder, and with a very inferior force defeated him in a great pitched battle on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1781 ; after which ſucceſs continued to ſmile upon the arms of the company throughout the remainder of the war\*.

\* It appears, however, very probable, that the princes of Hindooſtan, by their alliances, and by their hoſtilities, with the European powers, will in time become maſters of the European art of



The company's servants at Bombay in the mean time directed an expedition against the Dutch, by which they were expelled from their factories at Baroach near Surat.

The servants of the company in the supreme presidency of Bengal, though they found means to keep actual warfare at a distance from their own residence, were very far from being in a state of tranquillity. The reader will recollect that in the year 1773 the British legislature established a supreme court of judicature in Bengal, co-ordinate with, and independent of, the governor-general. That court in a great measure superseded the authority of the mayor's court of Calcutta, the judges of which, being gentlemen in the company's service, not bred to the profession of the law, were supposed incompetent to the discharge of such duties; though, as they regulated their proceedings by the established laws and customs of the country, and with the assistance of the native magistrates, their decisions had generally given much satisfaction. The new establishment was undoubtedly intended, and was also considered by most people, as a measure of humanity as well as policy, calculated to protect the natives from the oppression of the company's servants, to conciliate the jarring interests of the natives and Europeans, to administer impartial justice to all, and to guard the company's revenues and commerce from the depredations of their own servants. Perhaps, if the change had been effected gradually, and with great address and mildness, it might have been productive of some of the benefits expected from it; though even that is very doubtful. But the establishment was sudden, and the operations of the court were represented, as rigorous and severe in the extreme, by great numbers of petitions, which were repeatedly received at home, but which had not hitherto met with much attention.

Of the petitions sent home this year complaining of the conduct of the judges and their adherents, one was signed by Mr. Hastings, the governor-general of the British settlements in India, and by the members of the supreme council; another by 648 British subjects in Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa; and a third, written in the Persian language, and addressed to the king, by the natives of the province of Patna. In these petitions and other communications it was asserted, that the conduct of the judges was calculated, not to conciliate, but to exasperate; not to introduce order and regularity, but to subvert the established simple and suitable laws, which had been revered and understood by the civilized and polished ancestors of the native Hindoos, probably, for ages before a human footstep had pressed the shore of Britain, and to substitute in their place the unknown laws of England, the incomprehensible distinction between law and equity, and the endless intricacy, the fictions, and the perplexing jargon of the

of war: and then it will be impossible for a handful of strangers, though they were augmented to fifty times their present number, to keep so many millions of the natives in subjection.

English courts, with all their ruinous train of extorsions, oppressions, delays, quibbles, and abuses; though at the same time they refused to British subjects the benefit of that glorious boast of the English law, the trial by jury. The judges were moreover accused of invading the privileges of the governor-general and council, which were clearly defined and limited by act of parliament, and by the king's letters patent; of stretching their power in a most arbitrary manner to many persons and actions beyond the extent of their commission, (which was at least sufficiently ample) and of bringing before themselves trials for actions of times long bypast. Of many acts of enormity, with which they were particularly charged, I shall only mention that, which was most instrumental in bringing matters to a crisis between the governor and the judges. The officers of the court, acting under the authority of the judges, had cruelly abused and insulted a native prince (zemindar) tributary to the company, polluted the private apartments of his women, and prophaned the temple of his religious worship, without making the smallest allowance for the national customs and religious prejudices, which none of the servants of the company had ever presumed to violate, and which even the furious bigotry of the Mohamedan conquerors had respected. The natives, who are remarkable for their strong attachment to their hereditary princes, even in their present state of humiliation, flew to the rescue of his family from violation and rapine. The bailiffs were reinforced with a fresh gang of eighty-six armed men: and the seizure, begun in the name of justice, ended in battle and bloodshed. It is proper to observe, that the zemindars are by no means amenable to British laws, and, indeed, have no further connection with the company than to pay them the fixed rent or tribute, formerly paid by their ancestors to the superior princes of the country. The governor-general and council, thinking it incumbent upon them to protect their tributary princes, and convinced that such excesses threatened the very existence of the British power and influence, considered it to be their duty to oppose by force the proceedings of the supreme court. And then was exhibited to the astonished natives the spectacle of a large gang of British officers of the court and their troop of followers carried prisoners to Calcutta by a military force, sent after them by the British governor, or, in short, of a house divided against itself, which cannot stand, and all order and government subverted and buried under anarchy and irreconcilable pretensions. Indeed, so wretched was the state of the country, as it was represented in the petition of the natives, that many had flown from their native country; and they declared, that, if they could obtain no redress, all, who had the means, would abandon their dearest connections, and fly wherever they could; and those, who had no ability, would lay themselves down in resignation, and hope for relief in death. After this, let the soil of this country remain, and the

‘ court of justice ! let the court of justice remain upon the earth, or the earth cover it !’

The governor and council declared in their petition, that, if they had not acted as they did, the interests of the East-India company, and those of the British nation, inseparably connected with them, must have been absolutely ruined. And, as they had been compelled by the urgency of the case to take steps, which were irregular, they requested an act of indemnity for themselves and others, who had acted under their authority.

It was very evident to every person, that such a state of affairs in Bengal, wherein neither the European nor the native inhabitants could possibly know, to which of the two contradictory powers, both of whom they were bound by law to obey, they should yield obedience, could not continue long : and it was universally agreed, that a change was indispensibly necessary.

In the meantime the attention of the minister was turned upon the agreement to be made with the company for the renewal of their charter, which was now approaching to the end of its term. But the conditions he proposed were still thought so exorbitant by the company, that there appeared no prospect of any cordial accommodation taking place : and it was even repeatedly proposed in their meetings, that, rather than comply with such demands, they should dispose of all their property at home and abroad, dissolve their partnership, and rest their claims on the decision of a court of justice.

May 23<sup>d</sup>—When the consideration of the renewal of the charter was again resumed in the house of commons, Lord North strenuously insisted, that the company should pay to the public £600,000 as a composition for three fourths of the surplus of the net revenues over the dividend of eight per cent, which, he alleged, belonged to the public. But Mr. Hussey made it apparent, from a statement he laid before the house, that the commercial and territorial revenues taken together, upon an average of sixteen years past, had amounted only to *sixteen* per cent, *nine* of which proceeded from the company’s commerce, and consequently there were only *seven* remaining of that part of the profits, to which the public could form any pretensions.

July 18<sup>th</sup>—After many debates in parliament, and in the India house, the affairs of the company at home and abroad were settled by two acts of parliament in the following manner.

It was agreed, that the East-India company should pay into the exchequer the sum of £400,000 by four installments in the course of this year, as a full compensation for all claims the public might have upon them from the time that their bond debt was reduced to £1,500,000 to the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1781. The company’s exclusive trade, and the possession of their territorial acquisitions, were thereupon continued to

them till the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March 1791, and thereafter till parliament give three years' notice of an intention to discontinue them, and pay off the capital or debt of £4,200,000 due to the company, with all arrears of interest, &c. and, after a termination of their exclusive privileges, they are to have a right to remain a corporation, and to trade with their joint stock, in common with other British subjects. The public were henceforth to receive three fourths of the annual surplus of the net profits and revenues of the company, which should remain above eight per cent computed upon their capital stock of £3,200,000. The remaining fourth, together with money to be allowed them in consideration of victualing his Majesty's ships in the East-Indies, they were allowed to apply in enlarging their dividends, so as the augmentation should never exceed one per cent in a year, nor altogether ever rise above *twelve and a half per cent*, the bond debt being also limited never to exceed £1,500,000.

In order to ascertain the amount of the proportion of revenue payable to the public, the company were directed to present annually to the lords of the treasury a balanced statement of their accounts, with an inventory of their stock in hand, debts, &c. and distinguishing the state of their stock at each of their settlements in India, made up to the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March in every year, and signed by two of the directors; and also to submit to the inspection of the secretaries of state all letters and orders to be sent out to India. They were also to lay copies of the accounts before the general courts of proprietors.

It was also settled by this act, that the company should pay in India two lacks of current rupees annually to the king for every regiment consisting of one thousand men, employed in India at their request, over and above the extraordinaries now paid by them, and reckoning from the embarkation of the regiments to their return to Britain: and that they should supply all the victualing for his Majesty's ships, employed in India at their request, from the 5<sup>th</sup> day of July 1782, till the termination of the war, one fourth part of the expense of which should be returned to them by government: provided, that the three fourth parts of the victualing, to be defrayed by the company, do not disable them from making dividends of eight per cent; in case of which the part of the expense to be defrayed by the public must be enlarged so as to admit of the company making such a dividend, unless the whole is found inadequate to it. But after the peace the whole expense of such victualing falls upon the company. And they are also obliged to buy, and carry out, all such naval and military stores for his Majesty's ships, as shall be required by the commissioners of the navy, for which they are to be repaid by the treasury the principal part of the cost in forty days after delivering the account, and the remainder after certificates are obtained of the stores being furnished to the king's ships in India. The

company are also to supply all necessary stores for the repair of the king's ships in India, for which they are to be paid during the war : but after the peace such stores are to be supplied at the company's expense.

The company were, as before, restricted from accepting bills from India for more than £300,000 in one year, besides the usual warrants of £8,000 to the commander of each of their ships, without the permission of the treasury.

Doubts having arisen, whether, in consequence of great numbers of foreigners being proprietors of India stock, the ships in the company's service could be absolutely considered as British vessels, it was declared by this act, that all their ships are considered as British ships within the true intent and meaning of the act.

The governor-general and council of Bengal were continued in office during the continuance of this act, unless removed by the king : and, in case of death or resignation, the directors may appoint successors to them with his Majesty's consent.

As some compensation for the restraints now laid upon the company, the prohibitions against British subjects being in any way whatever concerned with foreigners in India were made so strict, that even lending money, directly or indirectly, to any foreign European was declared unlawful. [21 *Geo. III.*, c. 65.]

The doubts and difficulties concerning the authority of the supreme court in Bengal having been found productive of much dissension between the judges of it and the governor-general and council, and of many evils to the inhabitants ; and it being ' expedient, that the lawful ' government of the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa, should be ' supported, that the revenues thereof should be collected with certainty, ' and that the inhabitants should be maintained and protected in the ' enjoyment of their ancient laws, usages, rights, and privileges,' it was enacted, that the governor-general and council of Bengal should not be subject to the jurisdiction of the supreme court for any thing done in their public capacity, nor any other person for any thing done by a written order from them ; that the supreme court should have no jurisdiction in matters of revenue (except to punish moderately any abuse or extortion committed in the collection of it), nor any authority over any person by reason of his being a landholder or farmer of lands. Among a variety of regulations for the proceedings of the court, it was ordered, that causes between the Mahomedan or Hindoo inhabitants of Calcutta should be tried by their own laws, and, if the parties were of different religions, by those of the defendant ; and that what is allowable by their laws should upon no account be adjudged to be criminal, though it might be so by the law of England. Finally, the governor-general, the council, the advocate-general, and all persons acting under their orders, were indemnified for any thing done in resistance to the authority of the



supreme court between the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1779 and the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1780. [21 *Geo. III*, c. 70.]

Commodore Johnstone was sent out with a squadron of ships to attack the Dutch settlement at the Cape of Good Hope, and also to convoy the outward-bound India ships. When lying in harbour at the Cape de Verd islands, where he had put in for refreshments, he was attacked by a French fleet under Mr. de Suffrein, whom he beat off. But, as they got before him to the Cape, the object of his expedition was thereby frustrated. However, in Saldanha bay (July 21<sup>st</sup>) he surprised five homeward-bound Dutch India ships of about 1,100 tons, and carrying from 20 to 24 guns, which were immediately set on fire by the Dutch: but four were saved from the flames, and brought off. Whereupon he directed his course homeward with his prizes, the number of which was augmented by an outward-bound Dutch India ship, taken by one of his squadron; and the ships of his convoy proceeded on their voyage for India.

August 5<sup>th</sup>—The first general engagement between a British and a Dutch fleet, which was maintained with great bravery on both sides, and without a decisive victory on either, was attended with a circumstance very advantageous to the commercial interests, as well as the warlike operations, of this country; the safe arrival of above a hundred sail of merchant ships from the Baltic with naval stores and other goods, under the convoy of Admiral Hyde Parker, which he, having the advantage of the wind, detached from his fleet before the engagement. The Dutch Admiral Zoutman had also a fleet of merchant ships under his protection, which likewise got safe into port. But there was this important difference in the circumstances of the two fleets. The British ships had completed their voyages, and brought their cargoes safe into port: the Dutch by putting into port were disappointed of their voyages; and their country was disappointed of the naval stores, they were destined to bring home.

The losses sustained by the Dutch in consequence of the capture of St. Eustathius were severely felt, not only by those who were settled on the island, whose most extensive and lucrative trade, consisting mostly of consignments, was thereby abolished, but also by almost every person in the mother country: for the Dutch being a nation consisting almost entirely of people engaged in trade and manufactures, or dependent upon them, there can scarcely be an individual in such a community unaffected by a severe blow upon any particular branch of their commerce. Hence arose a great clamour against the partizans of the French interest, who were charged with having unnecessarily involved the nation in a war with their antient and natural allies and best customers. The province of Zeland even went so far as to present, in a corporate capacity, a memorial to the States general, earnestly requesting that a negotiation



should immediately be entered upon for the restoration of peace. That province was particularly engaged in commercial connections with Britain; and it was said that near two thousand \* British traders actually resided in Middleburg, the capital, besides great numbers in the other towns of it.

But the French interest prevailed; and all the efforts of the people to induce their high mightinesses to seek for peace were ineffectual. In the meantime applications were made by the Dutch government to the northern powers, their late associates in the armed neutrality, alleging their accession to that confederacy as the principal cause of Great Britain entering into war with them, and therefor claiming their assistance. But, however desirous those powers might be of procuring unlimited freedom to the commerce of their own subjects, and even of contributing to the humiliation of the naval power of Great Britain, they were by no means willing to draw upon themselves the actual hostility of that power. The empress of Russia sent orders to her ambassador at London to offer her mediation, and also sent Prince Gallitzin as her envoy-extraordinary to the States-general to acquaint them of her kind intentions in their favour. The king of Sweden in like manner sent offers of mediation in favour of '*a nation entirely commercial*,' and also complaints of the hardships sustained by the commerce of the neutral nations, and by his own commercial subjects in particular, which must be increased and aggravated by the further extension of the war.

The offers of both these powers were respectfully received by the British court. The Russian offer of mediation was accepted, in case the Dutch were really desirous of returning to a state of amity with Great Britain: and the Swedish ambassador was informed, that the preservation of public tranquillity was the first object of his Majesty's care. But it was observed, that the conduct of the Dutch was very different from that of a nation merely commercial: for they had refused to fulfill their engagements with Great Britain, and had moreover, with the most glaring partiality, given every assistance to the enemies of this country. Nevertheless, his Britannic Majesty had still expressed 'the most earnest desire to bring back the republic to that system of close union, efficacious alliance, and mutual protection, which has so much contributed to the prosperity and glory of the two states.' And the ambassador was civilly informed, that the empress of Russia being prior in her offer, his Majesty would not so far deviate from the respect due to her Imperial Majesty, as to associate 'to her mediation any other, even that of an ally the most respectable, and for whom the king entertains the most sincere friendship.'

These negotiations were not attended with any success. But they are worthy of our notice; because they shew (as I had occasion to observe,

\* I should suppose, this number may have comprehended the families of the traders, including their clerks, and even their menial servants.

of the Rhodians in the antient part of my work) how much the interest and the safety of a nation; whom others consider as merely commercial, engage the attention and goodwill of their neighbours.

The emperor of Germany wisely kept clear of the war, and embraced the favourable opportunity to promote the improvement of arts, manufactures, and commerce, in his dominions. He also gave a free toleration of religion through all his territories, and in many other respects considerably curtailed the papal power. He traveled all-over his dominions, that he might see with his own eyes the condition of his subjects; and, when he was at Brussels this summer, he admitted all petitioners to his presence, and, divesting himself of all pomp, allowed every one to tell his own tale in his own way to the *father of the people*. Upon that occasion he also established regulations for the improvement of the inland navigation of the Netherlands, and on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June he declared Ostend a free port.

October 9<sup>th</sup>—The armed neutrality, which already comprehended Russia, Sweden, Denmark, and Prussia, (the Dutch being no longer neutral) was now strengthened by the accession of the emperor, though we are not told with what proportion of maritime force\*.

September—The combined fleets of France and Spain, to the number, as was said, of forty-nine sail of the line, cruised for some time at the mouth of the English channel, where they hoped to intercept our rich homeward-bound fleets from the West-Indies, and also a large outward-bound fleet, which, they knew, was soon to sail from Cork. Their great number enabled them to form a line, or bar, from Ushant quite across to Silley, so that they were confident, that no vessel going in or out could escape them. Admiral Darby, who was then at sea with twenty-one sail of the line, was indebted to the accident of receiving notice of their situation by a neutral vessel for not falling into their hands, to avoid which he put into Torbay, where his fleet was increased to thirty ships of the line, with which he proceeded to sea on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September, his orders being to protect the homeward-bound merchant ships at all hazards.

In the meantime an invasion was apprehended in the south of Ireland. The unfortified harbour of Cork could not protect the rich fleet of ships in it, and the vast stores of provisions collected in the warehouses would be a most desirable prize to the enemy. The military forces in Ireland were therefor marched to the defence of that city; and the Irish volunteers made an offer of their services, wherever they should be wanted.

While preparations to withstand their attack were going on at Torbay, and in Ireland, a council of war was held onboard the combined fleet, wherein some of the admirals proposed to attack Admiral Darby

\* It is scarcely worth while to take notice of a treaty between Russia and Portugal, whereby the later acceded to the armed neutrality, in February 1783, *when the war was at an end*.

while lying at anchor, and they asserted, that the total destruction of his fleet, which must be inevitable, would at once ruin the naval power of Great Britain, and put an end to the war. But it was contended by others, that the British ships were so posted that they must have a very great advantage over those of the combined fleet, the ships of which could only follow each-other in a line, whereby each one must be exposed singly to the fire of many of the enemy's ships; and that the capture of such a large merchant fleet, which, there could be no doubt, must fall into their hands, an unresisting prey, would be a much severer blow upon the resources of Great Britain. The later plan was adopted, and they drew off from Torbay, leaving Admiral Darby at liberty to proceed to sea, thus exhibiting an additional proof of the inefficiency almost inseparable from the operations of confederated forces. But, before he left Torbay, it pleased the Almighty to employ the elements to fight for the preservation of the British commerce more effectually than any human force could have done. In the beginning of September the weather became so stormy, that the combined fleets, which were in many respects in very bad condition, and crowded with sick men, were obliged to abandon their towering hopes of destroying the maritime power, or the commerce, of Great Britain, and seek for safety in their own ports. And thus the French and Spaniards, after having a second time filled the entrance of our channel with fleets, which seemed to defy all power of resistance, returned home, without accomplishing the smallest object of advantage to themselves, and on the present occasion without so much as taking a single prize. The whole of the West-India fleet, which was so providentially detained later than was expected, arrived safe in a few weeks after.

September 23<sup>d</sup>—At a meeting of the proprietors of bank stock it was determined to raise their dividends from *five and a half* to *six* per cent, and also to make an addition of eight per cent to their capital stock by four installments, to be completed by the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 1782, whereby the capital of the bank was increased from £10,780,000 to £11,642,400.

November 26<sup>th</sup>—The marquis de Bouillé with about 300 soldiers, attended by three frigates, and some small vessels as transports, landed at an unguarded bay in S<sup>t</sup>. Eustathius, surprised Colonel Cockburn with his garrison of 723 men, and immediately got possession of the island. The marquis that same day restored the Dutch inhabitants to the civil government of the island, and assured them, that the French should keep possession, only till a Dutch garrison could arrive to take charge of the island, which he had reconquered merely in friendship to them. He also restored a large sum of money, which was found in the government house, to such of the inhabitants as could prove their right to it.—The island of S<sup>t</sup>. Martin followed the fate of S<sup>t</sup>. Eustathius now, as it had done in the beginning of the year. And thus ended our transitory possession of those islands.

December 12<sup>th</sup>—Admiral Kempenfelt fell in with a French fleet with a great number of transports under convoy: and, though the French were greatly superior to him in force, he took fourteen of the transports; and five more of them were taken some days after by two ships of his squadron. The prizes were filled with foldiers, artillery, and ordinance stores; and the capture may be considered as an event of importance in commercial history, as it was probably the means of saving some of our remaining possessions in the West-Indies, perhaps Jamaica itself, from falling into the hands of the enemy.

Such was at this time the glut of British manufactures, and of imported goods in general, in the few ports of America, which were under the British dominion, owing to the excessive spirit of adventure\*, and probably also to the large sales of goods greatly under value at St. Eustathius, that speculators, especially in New York, found, they could employ their money much more advantageously in buying goods on the spot, which were every day selling under their original cost, than by importing them.

The antient colony of Barbados contains only 106,470 acres of land, and it has at all times been more populous than any other of the sugar islands, and, perhaps I might add, more populous than most parts of Europe, exclusive of great towns. About the year 1670 it is said to have had 50,000 white, and above 100,000 black, inhabitants; but from the following enumerations, it will appear that these numbers must have been greatly exaggerated.

The population of Barbados was in

|   | White inhabitants. | Free people of colour. | Slaves.        | Total. |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|----------------|--------|
| 1676  | - 21,725           | - - -                  | 32,473         |        |
| 1712  | - 12,528           | - - -                  | 41,970         |        |
| 1748 by a list  | - 15,252           | 107                    | 47,025         |        |
| These numbers being made up for the purpose of taxation, slaves under age were exempted, and the lists were further falsified by concealments. Governor Grenville reported the real numbers in 1748 to be |                    |                        |                |        |
|   | 25,000 white and   | - - -                  | 68,000 slaves. |        |
| In 1768 they were   | 16,139             | 448                    | 66,379         | 82,966 |
| 1773  | - 18,532           | - - -                  | 68,548         |        |

From the apparent careless manner, in which these accounts, at least the earlier ones, have been made up, little dependence can be placed upon them for judging of the progressive state of Barbados. The exports of sugar, the principal staple of the island, will furnish a better standard. According to Pofflethwayte, there were in the year 1736

22,769 hogheads containing 295,997 cwts.  
and on an average of eight  
years 1740-1748 they were  
only 13,948 209,220

\* See the exports to New York, &c. in the table at the end of this year.

The principal source of the opulence of the island being in a progressive state of decline, owing to the strength of the soil being exhausted, and the inhabitants being still too numerous (though great numbers had emigrated to other islands) to be all employed in, or comfortably supported by, the cultivation of the soil, it became an object of serious attention to discover other means of employment and support. Therefor several gentlemen of the island this year established a *society for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce, in Barbados*: and they advertised premiums—for the manufacture of lace from the fibres of the cabbage-tree leaves, silk-grass, or plantane stalks—for the greatest quantity of all these fibres prepared in a proper state for manufacturing—for the greatest quantity of cotton yarn fit for weaving—for knit cotton stockings, and useful fabrics woven from cotton—for musquito nets made from any native material—for the discovery of valuable native dye stuffs—and for the best horse bred in the island.

Money, however, appears to have been continually becoming more plentiful in Barbados; as a proof of which, the legal interest, which before the year 1668 was 15 per cent, was, after successive reductions settled in 1754 at 6 per cent: and Governor Cunningham in his official letters, asserted, that it was now in contemplation (probably in consequence of the large sum granted by the British legislature to the sufferers in the late hurricane) to reduce it to 5 per cent, a rate of interest below the legal standard of any of the foreign dominions subject to the crown of Great Britain, even including Ireland.

The following enumeration of the houses chargeable with the window tax in each of the counties, or shires, of England and Wales, in the years 1750 and 1781, is taken from the accounts made up at the tax office.

|            | In 1750 | In 1781 |
|------------|---------|---------|
| Bedford    | 6,802   | 5,360   |
| Berks      | 9,762   | 8,277   |
| Buckingham | 10,687  | 8,670   |
| Cambridge  | 9,334   | 9,088   |
| Chester    | 16,006  | 17,201  |
| Cornwall   | 14,520  | 15,274  |
| Cumberland | 11,914  | 13,419  |
| Derby      | 13,912  | 14,046  |
| Devon      | 30,049  | 28,612  |
| Dorset     | 11,711  | 11,132  |
| Durham     | 10,475  | 12,418  |
| Essex      | 19,075  | 18,389  |
| Gloucester | 16,251  | 14,950  |
| Hampshire  | 18,045  | 15,828  |
| Hertford   | 9,251   | 8,628   |

|        |  | In 1750 | In 1781 |
|--------|--|---------|---------|
| Wales. | Hereford                               | 8,771   | 8,092   |
|        | Huntingdon                             | 4,363   | 3,847   |
|        | Kent                                   | 30,029  | 30,975  |
|        | Lancaster                              | 33,273  | 30,956  |
|        | Leicester                              | 12,957  | 12,545  |
|        | Lincoln                                | 24,999  | 24,591  |
|        | Middlesex, with London and Westminster | 71,977  | 74,704  |
|        | Monmouth                               | 4,980   | 4,454   |
|        | Norfolk                                | 20,697  | 20,056  |
|        | Northampton                            | 12,464  | 10,350  |
|        | Northumberland                         | 10,453  | 12,431  |
|        | Nottingham                             | 11,001  | 10,872  |
|        | Oxford                                 | 10,362  | 8,698   |
|        | Rutland                                | 1,873   | 1,445   |
|        | Salop                                  | 13,332  | 12,895  |
|        | Somerset                               | 27,822  | 26,407  |
|        | Stafford                               | 15,917  | 16,483  |
|        | Suffolk                                | 18,834  | 19,589  |
|        | Surrey, with Southwark                 | 20,037  | 19,381  |
|        | Sussex                                 | 11,170  | 10,574  |
|        | Warwick                                | 12,759  | 13,276  |
|        | Westmoreland                           | 4,937   | 6,144   |
|        | Wilts                                  | 14,303  | 12,856  |
|        | Worcester                              | 9,967   | 8,791   |
|        | York                                   | 70,816  | 76,224  |
|        | Anglesey                               | 1,334   | 2,264   |
|        | Brecknock                              | 3,234   | 3,407   |
|        | Cardigan                               | 2,542   | 2,444   |
|        | Carmarthen                             | 5,020   | 5,126   |
|        | Carnarvon                              | 2,366   | 2,675   |
|        | Denbigh                                | 6,091   | 5,678   |
|        | Flint                                  | 3,520   | 2,990   |
|        | Glamorgan                              | 6,290   | 5,146   |
|        | Merioneth                              | 2,664   | 2,972   |
|        | Montgomery                             | 4,890   | 5,421   |
|        | Pembroke                               | 2,803   | 3,224   |
|        | Radnor                                 | 2,425   | 2,076   |
|        |  | 729,048 | 721,351 |

Of the chargeable houses in 1781, there were reported to be

|                         |   |   |         |
|-------------------------|---|---|---------|
| having under 10 windows | - | - | 497,801 |
| under 20 windows        | - | - | 171,177 |
| above 20 windows        | - | - | 52,373  |

The cottages, or houses not chargeable were

|  |   |   |         |
|--|---|---|---------|
|  | - | - | 721,351 |
|  | - | - | 284,459 |

Total houses and cottages in 1781

|  |   |   |           |
|--|---|---|-----------|
|  | - | - | 1,005,810 |
|--|---|---|-----------|



But the accuracy of these accounts, though official, has been questioned by some writers of eminence, who have bestowed great attention on the subject. And, indeed, it strikes one at the first glance, that a decrease is stated in some counties, where there ought certainly to be an increase. Lancashire in particular is here stated as having fallen off. But it is unquestionable, that the two rapidly-increasing towns of Liverpool and Manchester with their thriving dependencies, situated in that county, have greatly augmented their number of houses between the years 1750 and 1781; and it is equally certain, that the county in general has been in an advancing state of population and prosperity. It is not to be supposed, that Wiltshire, Somerset, and Gloucestershire, the seat of the flourishing and increasing woollen manufacture, can be declining in the number or goodness of their houses; or that Surrey, wherein a collection of buildings, which, if remote from London, would be reckoned a large town, has within that time started up in St. George's fields only, besides the vast numbers of other new buildings, the effects of the growing opulence of the capital, could have fewer chargeable houses in 1781 than in 1750. On the other hand, we can scarcely suppose, that some counties have advanced so very much as appears by these accounts, e. g. Westmoreland, Anglesey, &c. But there seems very good reason to believe, that, upon the whole, the number of chargeable houses (that is, houses of the better sort) instead of decreasing 7,697 throughout the whole kingdom of England and Wales, has more probably increased as many in those thirty-one years. Sir Frederic Morton Eden has with laudable patriotic industry collected the numbers of houses and people in a great number of towns and parishes, in ninety of which, whereof he has obtained the numbers of the charged and exempted houses, the charged are 24,464, and the exempted 30,005: and thence he infers, that the whole number of exempted houses in England and Wales must be considerably above 900,000, or above three times as many as were returned; and that the whole population must be near to nine millions. And Mr. Chalmers, from comparing the proportion of the charged and exempted houses in the year 1690, concludes, that the exempted houses in 1781 could not be fewer than 865,000, making in all 1,586,000 houses, inhabited by about eight millions and a half of people. Upon the whole it is very evident, that the exempted houses are much more numerous than they appear in the account, and that any estimate of the population or condition of the country, founded on the returns of the surveyors of the house and window duties must be very fallacious. [See *Chalmers's Estimate*, c. xi.—*Eden's State of the poor*, V. iii, p. cccli.]

I have now before me copies of accounts of the numbers of houses in England and Scotland, made up at the office for taxes 23<sup>d</sup> January 1781, which, enumerating the inhabited and chargeable houses together with the cottages, in each county make the whole number of both descriptions in England, including Wales and Berwick upon Tweed, to be

only 952,734; and the chargeable houses in Scotland, the cottages being entirely omitted, to be only 17,734.

The following comparative enumeration of the chargeable inhabited houses in the principal cities, towns, and villages, is taken from the same accounts; and as the subjects of it lie in a narrower compass, we may suppose it more correct than that of the counties.

|                          |        |                    |     |                               |       |
|--------------------------|--------|--------------------|-----|-------------------------------|-------|
| LONDON, city             | 16,332 | Canterbury         | 881 | Edmundton                     | 474   |
| Westminster and liberty  | 17,013 | Gloucester         | 841 | Peterburgh                    | 473   |
| Marylebone               | 3,664  | Colchester         | 828 | Boston                        | 469   |
| Chelsea                  | 610    | Hereford           | 810 | Wisbech                       | 469   |
| Kensington               | 700    | Salisbury          | 804 | Mitcham                       | 462   |
| Pancras                  | 1,273  | Sunderland         | 792 | Haltwesel                     | 455   |
| Islington                | 828    | Chatham            | 765 | Newbury                       | 453   |
| Hackney                  | 1,168  | Maidston           | 727 | Faversham                     | 452   |
| Southwark                | 12,120 | Northampton        | 706 | Grantham                      | 451   |
| Deptford                 | 926    | Worcester          | 721 | Ramsgate                      | 450   |
| Greenwich                | 1,555  | Woolwich           | 690 | Macclesfield                  | 449   |
|                          | 56,189 | Wolverhampton      | 683 | Wandsworth                    | 449   |
| Bristol                  | 3947   | Yarmouth           | 682 | Darlington                    | 444   |
| St. Philip and Jacob     | 555    | Berwick upon Tweed | 678 | Leominster                    | 444   |
| Liverpool †              | 3,974  | Reading            | 672 | Halifax                       | 440   |
| Plymouth                 | 1510   | Lynn               | 662 | Loughburgh                    | 440   |
| Stoke Damerel            | 1151   | St. Edmundsbury    | 648 | St. John's in Thanet          | 440   |
| Manchester †             | 2,519  | Walsall            | 644 | Tiverton                      | 435   |
| Oxford and University    | 2,316  | Scarburgh          | 628 | Stockton                      | 431   |
| Norwich                  | 2,302  | Chichester         | 621 | Kingston                      | 431   |
| Birmingham               | 2,291  | Winchester         | 613 | Carlisle                      | 430   |
| York                     | 2,285  | Croydon            | 612 | Carmarthen                    | 430   |
| Newcastle upon Tyne      | 2,219  | Stockport          | 12  | Ludlow                        | 430   |
| Sheffield                | 2,092  | Rochester          | 607 | Windsor                       | 428   |
| Bath                     | 1173   | Lancaster          | 604 | Lichfield                     | 407   |
| Walcot and suburbs       | 786    | Deal               | 600 | Sandwich                      | 406   |
| Cambridge and University | 1,925  | Shiels             | 578 | Bradford, Yorkshire           | 403   |
| Leicester                | 1,561  | Stanford           | 576 | Preston                       | 402   |
| Nottingham               | 1,533  | Whitby             | 548 | Hexham                        | 402   |
| Leeds                    | 1,520  | Wakefield          | 544 | Hertford                      | 401   |
| Exeter                   | 1,474  | Newark             | 538 | Gravesend                     | 401   |
| Hull and county          | 1,370  | Southampton        | 535 | Richmond                      | 400   |
| Derby                    | 1,358  | Folkstone          | 533 |                               |       |
| Whitehaven               | 1,298  | Poole              | 523 | Edinburgh, city †             | 2,017 |
| Chester                  | 1,244  | Doncaster          | 514 | Glasgow §                     | 1,005 |
| Ipswich                  | 1,244  | Alnwick            | 513 | Aberdeen                      | 449   |
| Dover                    | 1,193  | Mansfield          | 510 | Dundee                        | 419   |
| Lincoln                  | 906    | Warwick            | 495 |                               |       |
| Shrewsbury               | 904    | Tavistock          | 489 | All other towns were rated at |       |
| Coventry                 | 890    | Warrington         | 479 | fewer than 400 inhabited and  |       |
|                          |        | Brentford          | 477 | chargeable houses.            |       |

\* Much more might be comprehended under the general appellation of London in the largest extent of the name: but it is impossible to draw the line, where the town ends and the country begins. Indeed, the villages, and even the roads, for ten miles in every direction, may almost be considered as parts of the town, being filled and supported by the overflowing opulence of the capital.

† † The whole houses in Liverpool were reckoned in 1773 - 5,928, and in 1783 - 6,819  
and in Manchester with Salford - 4,268 - 6,178

These numbers prove the truth of the observation upon the increased numbers of Lancashire. [See Chalmers's *Estimate*, p. 218, ed. 1794.]

‡ So long ago as 1722 there were 5,975 families within the city of Edinburgh; and in 1791, when many had removed to the suburbs for the sake of more room, there were 6,434 families within the city, and 12,220 in the suburbs, being in all 18,654 families, exclusive of the inhabitants of the castle and of the hospitals. [Sinclair's *Statistical account of Scotland*, V. vi, p. 560.]

§ By an enumeration in 1785 the inhabited houses in Glasgow, exclusive of the suburbs, were found to be 9,102. By another enumeration in 1791, which is believed to have been very accurate, they were increased to 10,291. [Sinclair, V. v, p. 510.]

The following enumeration of the British and Dutch ships, which passed the Sound to, and from, the Baltic sea in the years 1780 and 1781, shows very strongly the effect of the war upon the commerce of the Dutch, and especially their carrying trade, the favourite branch of it; and it also accounts for the anxiety expressed by the northern nations for an unlimited freedom of commerce.

|      |   |   | British ships. |   |   | Dutch ships. |
|------|---|---|----------------|---|---|--------------|
| 1780 | - | - | 1,701          | - | - | 2,058        |
| 1781 | - | - | 2,001          | - | - | 9            |

And not one French vessel entered the Baltic in these two years. But the French trade was carried on in neutral bottoms. And many of the Dutch merchant ships continued in the trade under Imperial, Swedish, Prussian, and Danish, colours. Some British vessels also, in order to lessen the expense of their insurance, procured neutral papers during the war.

|  |   |       |   |   |         |
|--|---|-------|---|---|---------|
| There belonged this year to all the ports                        |   |       |   |   |         |
| of England 6,567 vessels of the reputed burthen of 540,909 tuns, |   |       |   |   |         |
| and of Scotland 1,489  | - | -     | - | - | 85,537  |
| Total  | - | 8,056 | - | - | 626,446 |

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain, from and to foreign countries, including repeated voyages,

|           | British. |         | Foreign. |         | Total.   |         |
|-----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
|           | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.   |
| Inward -  | 4,715    | 503,872 | 2,108    | 262,594 | 6,823    | 766,466 |
| Outward - | 6,939    | 608,319 | 1,564    | 70,775  | 8,503    | 679,094 |

The net amount of the customs, including the West-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the course of this year, was from the custom-house in London - £2,731,428 7 10  
and from the custom-house in Edinburgh - 60,000 0 0

Total net revenue of the customs of Great Britain £2,791,428 7 10

There were coined in the mint in the course of the year  
18,765 pounds of gold, value - £876,794 12 6  
and 20 pounds of silver, - 62 0 0  
£876,856 12 6.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Christmas 1780 to Christmas 1781 was as follows.

| Countries, &c.            | Imported into   |               | Exported from    |               |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
|                           | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.     | ENGLAND.         | SCOTLAND.     |
| Africa -                  | £36,386 8 10    |               | £312,822 7 10    |               |
| Denmark and Norway        | 94,639 1 10     | £28,181 19 0  | 172,012 19 9     | £35,011 11 1  |
| East country -            | 447,845 8 6     |               | 86,848 19 3      |               |
| East-India -              | 2,526,339 2 2   |               | 595,131 18 2     |               |
| Flanders -                | 1,204,860 4 5   | 45,803 19 4   | 1,968,383 11 3   | 56,452 6 10   |
| France -                  | 1,909 14 4      |               | 873 12 0         |               |
| Germany -                 | 617,185 6 5     | 26,659 2 6    | 1,000,078 11 2   | 26,458 11 3   |
| Greenland -               | 28,255 13 1     | 8,291 13 3    |                  |               |
| Holland -                 | 100,048 18 11   | 13,563 8 5    | 313,487 7 10     |               |
| Iceland -                 |                 | 465 1 3       |                  |               |
| Ireland -                 | 1,433,835 15 2  | 195,685 13 0  | 1,769,589 19 1   | 305,167 11 11 |
| Mann -                    | 11,204 17 10    | 802 6 0       | 19,418 19 9      | 1,818 18 6    |
| Italy -                   | 133,645 18 0    |               | 262,760 7 4      |               |
| Madeira -                 | 2,433 8 2       |               | 24,000 9 10      |               |
| Poland -                  |                 | 7,389 19 0    |                  | 161 6 1       |
| Prussia -                 |                 | 9,648 11 9    |                  | 82 5 4        |
| Portugal -                | 355,723 3 0     | 14,614 10 0   | 523,493 7 3      | 678 14 9      |
| Russia -                  | 1,206,806 18 7  | 209,325 1 8   | 137,967 6 7      | 5,915 5 0     |
| Spain -                   | 114,492 7 2     |               |                  |               |
| Gibraltar -               | 994 2 4         |               | 3,550 5 6        |               |
| Straits -                 |                 |               | 6,165 10 0       |               |
| Sweden -                  | 212,414 19 11   | 18,793 7 11   | 62,510 8 10      | 4,793 13 7    |
| Turkey -                  | 24,180 2 6      |               | 1,562 19 10      |               |
| Venice -                  | 37,035 12 3     |               | 17,819 16 3      |               |
| Guernsey, &c. -           | 94,876 7 2      | 5,443 9 6     | 75,798 13 11     | 17,285 5 0    |
| America in general        |                 | 49,826 19 2   |                  | 183,620 10 2  |
| Hudson's bay -            | 14,763 17 0     |               | 6,228 3 5        |               |
| Newfoundland -            | 51,593 18 10    |               | 74,091 4 3       |               |
| Quebec -                  | 48,547 17 11    |               | 422,807 13 6     |               |
| Nova Scotia -             | 4,023 19 6      |               | 32,474 10 1      |               |
| New England -             | 2,068 6 0       |               |                  |               |
| New York -                | 2,904 18 5      |               | 502,977 5 8      |               |
| Carolina -                | 94,368 8 2      |               | 330,847 2 10     |               |
| Georgia -                 | 506 5 0         |               | 14,058 19 0      |               |
| Florida -                 | 30,715 5 1      |               | 16,446 9 1       |               |
| West-Indies in general    |                 | 169,375 11 1  |                  | 141,220 9 6   |
| Antigua -                 | 152,445 4 2     |               | 65,223 11 2      |               |
| Barbados -                | 81,177 13 11    |               | 152,681 6 10     |               |
| Bermuda -                 | 2,673 14 9      |               | 2,346 3 6        |               |
| Jamaica -                 | 869,751 14 10   |               | 442,695 5 2      |               |
| Montserrat -              | 56,402 10 8     |               | 14,707 12 6      |               |
| Nevis -                   | 83,513 8 2      |               | 22,634 11 2      |               |
| New Providence            | 3,553 16 2      |               | 1,776 15 10      |               |
| St. Christophers -        | 385,527 17 10   |               | 133,312 15 0     |               |
| St. Eustathius -          | 5,159 17 1      |               | 453 8 5          |               |
| St. Lucia -               | 103,565 19 0    |               | 89,394 3 0       |               |
| St. Martins -             | 28,010 4 3      |               | 4,127 15 3       |               |
| St. Thomas -              |                 |               | 26,606 12 11     |               |
| Tobago -                  | 29,330 2 8      |               | 14,442 17 10     |               |
| Tortola -                 | 70,960 0 10     |               | 33,438 0 9       |               |
| Demararay -               | 20,232 19 6     |               | 4,473 13 6       |               |
| New Orleans -             |                 |               | 98 17 4          |               |
| Southern fishery          | 4,151 0 0       |               |                  |               |
| Prize goods -             | 1,087,928 18 8  |               | 806,564 1 5      |               |
| Imp. and exp. of England  | 11,918,991 9 0  |               | 10,569,186 10 10 |               |
| Imp. and exp. of Scotland | 803,870 12 10   | 803,870 12 10 | 763,109 9 0      | 763,109 9 0   |
| Total, Great Britain      | 12,722,862 1 10 |               | 11,332,295 19 10 |               |

1782—The city and fortress of Negapatnam, belonging to the Dutch on the coasts of the Carnatic in the south part of Hindoostan \*, were taken by Sir Edward Hughes and Sir Hector Munro (12<sup>th</sup> November 1781): and this conquest was immediately followed by the retreat of Hyder's troops from the neighbouring country, belonging to the company and their allies. From Negapatnam Sir Edward proceeded to the coast of Ceylon, where he also took the Dutch settlements and forts at Trincomalee (January 11<sup>th</sup>). Two battles were fought in the early part of this year by the British and French fleets in the Indian seas, which both terminated to the advantage of the British, as did also most of the many battles on the main land with Hyder Ally: and there were several vicissitudes of success and defeat in the ensuing part of the season, none of which were of such importance as to merit particular notice in commercial history. But in the prosecution of those hostilities the provinces, which were the theatre of the war, were ruined by pillage and extortion; the agriculture, the manufactures, and commerce, of the country were almost annihilated †: and the whole conduct of the war, with respect to the unhappy natives, was equally repugnant to the principles of sound policy and to the commercial interests of the East-India company.

The Dutch East-India company, who were for a long time the greatest and most powerful mercantile association that had ever appeared in the world, had hitherto continued tolerably prosperous, notwithstanding the general decline of the taste for spices in Europe, and the relaxation of economy and conduct in their servants in India. But their recent misfortunes in India gave such a check to their commercial prosperity, that they must have been brought to the verge of ruin, if the States-general had not given them the most liberal support by loans to a very large amount.

In the western hemisphere a continued series of misfortunes attended the possessions of Great Britain in the beginning of this year. The marquis de Bouillé and the comte de Grasse took the small, but fertile, island of Nevis (January 14<sup>th</sup>); after which they attacked the larger and more valuable neighbouring island of St. Christophers, which, after a gallant resistance, was also obliged to surrender (February 13<sup>th</sup>); and the island of Montserrat shared the same fate. The French commanders granted those islands the most liberal terms, whereby their properties, their religious and civil liberties, and, in a great measure, even their forms of government, were preserved to the inhabitants. In the meantime a French

\* I am aware that the great extent of country south of the River Nerbudda is not properly any part of Hindoostan; and that the proper general name of the whole peninsula (if a mass of land, so formed, can be called a peninsula) has been from all antiquity *Dccan*. But I use the name in the

large acceptation, it is generally, but improperly, extended to.

† These miseries were followed by a most dreadful famine, whereby 300,000 people are said to have perished in the territories of the company and those of Hyder Ally.

squadron arrived at Demararay, and took possession of that place and Islequibo, together with several British vessels (January 31<sup>st</sup>).

February 3<sup>d</sup>—Jamaica, though it was not attacked by any hostile force, suffered severely from a fire, whereby Kingston, the principal commercial town in the British West-Indies, lost houses, stores, and merchandize of all kinds to the value, as was estimated, of half a million of money.

In Europe Britain lost the island of Minorca, which, after a long and obstinate defence by General Murray, surrendered to the united forces of France and Spain (February 6<sup>th</sup>).

February—The month of February in this year may be noted for the lowest price, at which the funds of this country have ever been sold, prior to the great depression in the present war with France, the three-percents having been as low as 53 $\frac{5}{8}$ .

March—The permission to import Italian organized silk was further continued till the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1783. [22 *Geo. III*, c. 7.]

The sum of thirteen millions and a half was raised for the public service by a loan, to which was attached a lottery for the further sum of £405,000. The subscribers received £100 in the three-per-cent consolidated fund, and £50 in the four-per-cent consolidated fund, together with a terminable annuity of 17/6 for seventy-eight years to be computed from 5<sup>th</sup> January 1782, for every £100 subscribed; and moreover three lottery tickets at the price of £10 each for every £1,000 subscribed, the number of tickets on this occasion being only 40,500.

The following acts were continued for limited times, viz.

The act for encouraging the manufacture of sail-cloth in Great Britain, continued till 29<sup>th</sup> September 1788.

The act for encouraging the manufacture of silk in Great Britain, continued till 24<sup>th</sup> June 1788.

The act for allowing the free importation of cochineal and indigo, continued till 29<sup>th</sup> September 1788.

The act prohibiting the importation of foreign editions of books, originally composed and printed in Great Britain, continued till 29<sup>th</sup> September 1788.

The act for securing the duties on foreign sail-cloth, continued till 24<sup>th</sup> June 1788.

The act for allowing the bounty on corn exported in neutral vessels, continued till 25<sup>th</sup> March 1783.

The act for allowing the exportation of provisions, merchandize, &c. to the ports in America, which were under the protection of the British army, continued till 1<sup>st</sup> June 1783.

The act prohibiting the transportation by water of copper in bars or sheets, continued till 1<sup>st</sup> May 1783.



The act for allowing the exportation of wheat to the British sugar colonies only, continued till 1<sup>st</sup> May 1783. [22 *Geo. III*, c. 13.]

The act, allowing merchant ships to have foreign seamen for three fourths of their complement, was also continued till 25<sup>th</sup> March 1783. [22 *Geo. III*, c. 16.]

April 12<sup>th</sup>—In the West-Indies a general engagement took place between the British fleet commanded by Admiral Rodney and the French fleet commanded by the comte de Grasse. The battle, which began in the morning, was kept up the whole day with unremitting fury on both sides, and terminated in the evening by a complete victory gained by the British fleet. One French ship of the line was sunk, and five were taken, one of which, called the *Ville de Paris*, was a present made by the city of Paris to the king at the expense of £176,000: she carried 110 guns, and was esteemed the finest ship that ever swam upon the ocean\*. The comte de Grasse, who was onboard her, consequently augmented the splendour of the victory by the capture of the commander-in-chief. As the whole train of artillery, intended for a grand attack upon Jamaica, was onboard the ships which were taken, this victory may justly be considered as having effected the safety of that important colony, and also as having given a complete check to the career of French conquest in the West-Indies, where for some time past almost every event had been adverse to the interest of Great Britain. And it was not less critically fortunate to the reputation and interest of the admiral, as it prevented him from being superseded in the command, and from being subjected to a rigorous parliamentary inquiry respecting the transactions at St. Eustathius, and also procured him the thanks of both houses of parliament, together with a peerage accompanied by a pension to himself and his heirs.

April 22<sup>d</sup>—After Mr. Adams had spent a whole year in soliciting the Dutch to acknowledge the independence of the United States of America, and to enter into an alliance with them, as the republic in the whole world most similar to their own, in religion, in manners, and even in the events by which both had obtained their independence, they at last, with their national dilatoriness of consultation, publicly received him as ambassador from the United States, whose independence they only now acknowledged; though they had from the beginning of the contest covertly, and for some time past overtly, done all in their power to assist them against Great Britain. It is worthy of remark, that the public reception of the American ambassador took place at the very time, when proposals for a separate peace with the Dutch, under the mediation of Russia, and admitting a free navigation on the full principles of the armed neutrality, were offered by Great Britain.

\* This proud trophy of the British victory was lost at sea. But another ship of equal magnitude was immediately built to carry her name.

May 8<sup>th</sup>—The island of New Providence surrendered to the arms of Spain: and the innumerable cluster of the Bahama islands, of which it was the seat of government, and then also the only one containing any considerable number of inhabitants, was comprehended in the capitulation. Of all the numerous islands and settlements in the West-Indies, colonized or conquered by Great Britain, there remained now only Jamaica with its dependencies, Barbados, Antigua, the Virgin islands, Anguilla, Barbuda, and Bermuda.

May—The reduction of the bounty being found to diminish the number of vessels employed in the Greenland whale fishery, it was again raised to forty shillings a tun. And, whereas in time of war it is exceedingly difficult to procure the number of men required by the law, the ships were permitted to take in men, not exceeding two for every fifty tuns of their burthen at Shetland, and to land them there on their return from the fishery. [22 Geo. III, c. 19.]

The act, permitting the importation of tallow, hog's lard, and grease, free of duty, was continued till the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1785. [22 Geo. III, c. 20.]

Some regulations for preventing the fraudulent importation of foreign snuff, and to prevent smuggling by vessels fitted out as privateers, were enacted. [22 Geo. III, c. 21.]

The practice of ransoming ships taken by the enemy being found liable to great abuses, it was prohibited under a penalty of £500, and all ransom bills were declared to be null and void after a limited time. [22 Geo. III, c. 25.]

An additional duty of four pence on every pound of tobacco, and of eight pence on every pound of snuff, imported, was ordered to take place after the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1782.—The duties of customs upon brandy and arrack were repealed, and a new duty imposed of £8 : 8 : 0 with an addition of five per cent upon that duty, upon every tun, containing 252 gallons, of brandy, or spirits entered under that name, imported from any foreign country, and the same upon arrack. [22 Geo. III, c. 28.]

The British planters in the islands of St. Christophers, Nevis, and Montserrat, now living under the dominion of France, were permitted to carry their produce to any part of the British dominions in Europe or America, and to pay only the duties payable upon the produce of the islands subject to Britain. [22 Geo. III, c. 30.]

The act [6 Geo. III, c. 22] for regulating the loading of ships with coal at Newcastle and Sunderland, being found beneficial, was prolonged till 25<sup>th</sup> March 1789. [22 Geo. III, c. 32.]

Inland bills of exchange, promissory notes, and other notes not payable on demand, were subjected to stamp duties\*. [22 Geo. III, c. 33.] This regulation made a considerable addition to the income of the post-

\* As those stamp duties were afterwards augmented, it is needless to take further notice of them here.

office by abolishing the practice of drawing bills on the paper of the letters, which accompanied them.

June 19<sup>th</sup>—Tobacco, the growth of the British plantations, was permitted to be imported during the continuance of the war, from any port of America, the West-Indies, or Europe. [22 *Geo. III.* c. 38.]

In order to put a stop to the violence and outrages frequently committed by riotous and ill-disposed persons, the crime of entering houses or shops, and cutting or destroying woollen, silk, cotton, or linen, goods, or any tools or utensils used in spinning, preparing, or weaving, such goods, was made felony without benefit of clergy. [22 *Geo. III.* c. 40.]

Tickets for the lotteries established by the parliament of Ireland were permitted to be sold in any part of Great Britain, except the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, under the same regulations with respect to licences, shares, &c. which are enacted for conducting the business of the British state lotteries. [22 *Geo. III.* c. 47.]

The affairs of the East-India company were now become almost as much the subject of parliamentary discussion as the national income and expenditure. Mr. Henry Dundas, the lord advocate of Scotland, who had examined the affairs of India with uncommon industry and acuteness, declared in the house of commons, that the revenue of the presidency of Bombay fell short of its civil and military investments £200,000 annually, which deficiency was made up by Bengal; that the revenue of the presidency of Madras, though in the four years of peace between 1767 and 1779 it had exceeded nearly one half as much as the expenses, had not been equal to the civil and military investments during the eight years of war; and that even in Bengal, the most fertile and lucrative of the British possessions in India, the expenses of the war with the Mahrattas threatened a partial, if not a total, suspension of the investments for England. He condemned the thirst for conquests and frantic military exploits, too often displayed by our governors in India, who, he said, instead of acting as the faithful stewards of a commercial company, were too apt to fancy themselves Alexanders or Aurengezebes, and he hinted the propriety of placing the management of the territorial possessions under the direction of the crown. The house of commons afterwards resolved, ‘ that the orders of the court of directors of ‘ the East-India company, which have conveyed to their servants abroad ‘ a prohibitory condemnation of all schemes of conquest and enlarge- ‘ ment of dominion, by prescribing certain rules and boundaries for the ‘ operation of their military force, and enjoining a strict adherence to a ‘ system of defence upon the principles of the treaty of Illahabad, were ‘ founded no less in wisdom and policy, than in justice and moderation;’ and that the many deviations from those orders, and the unnecessary interferences in the affairs of the native princes had been productive of

such prejudice to the interests of the company and to their influence in the country, as could never be compensated by the temporary success of any plan of violence or injustice. The commons in their resolutions also censured some parts of the conduct of the directors of the East-India company, as well as that of their servants and agents; and they declared, that Mr. Hastings the governor-general, and some others of the company's servants, ought immediately to be recalled from India.

May—At the very time when these harsh measures against Mr. Hastings were resolved upon in parliament, he appears to have performed the most essential services in India by dissolving the grand confederacy of princes leagued against the company. He had already found means to detach a branch of the Mahrattas from that confederacy by means of a treaty of peace and alliance entered into with them on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 1781 by Colonel Muir. And now another treaty was concluded with the principal Mahratta state, which was conducted on the part of the company by Mr. David Anderson, upon liberal principles on both sides, whereby

Articles, 1, 2, 17) The company agreed to restore the countries, forts, &c. lately taken from the Mahrattas, excepting the islands of Salsette, Elephanta, Corranja, and Hog island.

3, 4) The possession of Baroach, with a territory of three lacks of rupees, had been ceded to the company by a former treaty; but they now relinquished their claim to the territory, reserving only the city.

9) The peshwa of the Mahrattas engaged to oblige Hyder Ally to evacuate the territories of the company and their allies.

11) It was agreed, that the vessels of each party should have free access and protection in the ports belonging to either.

12) The company were to enjoy the privileges of trade as formerly in the Mahratta territories, and agreed to grant equal freedom of trade to the Mahrattas in their territories.

13) The peshwa engaged to suffer no other European nation to be established in his territories, or those depending upon him, the settlements of the Portuguese being, however, understood to remain upon their antient footing.

This treaty was signed on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 1782 by Mr. Anderson, and confirmed on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June following by Mr. Hastings the governor-general, and Messieurs Wheeler and Macpherson members of the council, at Calcutta.

The people of Ireland had obtained from the British parliament some liberal concessions respecting the freedom of their commerce. But they were not satisfied with enjoying as a favour, liable to be resumed by the same power which granted it, what they considered as their inherent right; and they proceeded to declare, that no parliament, but their own, should have the power to legislate for Ireland. The majority

of the members of the Irish legislature showing, however, less ardour for their emancipation from the controul of the British parliament, than the people at large thought they ought to do, the volunteer associations determined, that the people of Ireland should not be trifled with by those 'who pretended to be their representatives;' and at a meeting held at Dungannon (February 15<sup>th</sup> 1782) the representatives, delegated from 143 corps of the volunteers, resolved, 'that a claim of any body of men, other than the king, lords, and commons, of Ireland, to make laws to bind that kingdom, is unconstitutional, illegal, and a grievance; that the powers exercised by the privy council of both kingdoms, under colour or pretence of the law of Poynings, are unconstitutional and a grievance; that a mutiny bill, not limited in point of duration from session to session, is unconstitutional and a grievance; and that the ports of Ireland are, by right, open to all foreign countries, not at war with the king, and any burthen thereon, or obstruction thereto, save only by the parliament of Ireland, is unconstitutional, illegal, and a grievance.' They further declared, in answer to those who had asserted, that volunteers, as such, had no right to give their opinions on political subjects, 'that a citizen by learning the use of arms does not abandon any of his civil rights:' and they made known their determination to use all constitutional means to obtain a speedy and effectual redress of their public grievances.

On this side of the water the business was also taken up with sincere intentions of giving all possible satisfaction to Ireland, which, 'being a part of the British empire, is entitled to the full and equal participation of all the benefits and all the immunities enjoyed in England, and which are consonant to the principles of the British constitution.' An act was accordingly passed (June 21<sup>st</sup>), whereby the act of the sixth year of King George I, for securing the dependence of the kingdom of Ireland upon the crown of Great Britain, with the several matters and things therein contained, was totally, and immediately, repealed. [22 Geo. III, c. 53.]

The parliament of Ireland, as a testimony of gratitude to the legislature of Great Britain, immediately voted twenty thousand men for the British navy: and in their address to the king they declared their confidence, that the independence of the legislature of Ireland, both as to internal and external objects, would be inviolably maintained.

July—A petition having been presented to parliament by the calico-printers, wherein they set forth, that the East-India company had taken advantage of the improvements, introduced into their business some years ago, in printing upon engraved plates of copper and other metals, by sending out plates and workmen to their settlements in India, where the low price of labour enabled them to print their calicoes much cheaper than the petitioners were able to do; and that great quantities

of such printed goods were imported, and, it being next to impossible to distinguish them from British printed goods, the petitioners were in danger of being ruined, and the trade and revenue of the kingdom were in danger of being greatly injured. It was thereupon enacted, that whosoever should entice any workmen employed in printing calicoes, cottons, muslins, or linens, or in making blocks, plates, or utensils, for such manufacture, to go beyond the sea, should be punished by a fine of £500, and also be imprisoned for twelve months; and, in case of a second offence, the fine and imprisonment should be doubled. Any person found guilty of exporting blocks, plates, or utensils, for the printing business, is also liable to a fine of £500; and commanders of vessels, knowingly suffering such blocks, &c. to be received onboard their vessels are subjected to a penalty of £100. [22 *Geo. III*, c. 60.]

An additional duty of three pence per pound, with five per cent on the amount of the duty, was imposed on white, or manufactured, bee's wax imported. [22 *Geo. III*, c. 61.]

An addition of five per cent, upon all former duties upon goods imported, exported, or carried by coasting navigation, and also upon the excise duties, with some exemptions, was voted by parliament. [22 *Geo. III*, c. 66.]

An act was passed to prevent his Majesty's enemies from being supplied with ships or vessels from Great Britain. [22 *Geo. III*, c. 71.]

The prohibition of importing foreign silks and velvets [Act 6 *Geo. III*, c. 28] was prolonged till 14<sup>th</sup> June 1788. [22 *Geo. III*, c. 72.]

The act, of the twelfth year of Charles II, against cultivating tobacco in England, was now declared to extend to Scotland. But, as several people in Scotland, after the interruption of the American trade, had planted tobacco\*, all such tobacco, already cured, or now growing, was directed to be entered before the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 1782 at the nearest custom-house, and the duties payable on the importation of American tobacco, to be paid for it. The Scottish tobacco was not permitted to be carried by land into England, but might be carried thither by water: and no drawback of duty was allowed on the exportation of it. [22 *Geo. III*, c. 73.]

As the drugs, produced in Hungary and Germany, used in times of peace with the Dutch to be imported from Rotterdam, such drugs were now permitted to be brought from any port in the Austrian Netherlands or Germany in British-built vessels, and to be considered, with respect to the duties, as brought from the place of their growth. Wine and organzined silk, the produce of Hungary, the Austrian dominions,

\* Some tobacco was also planted in the county of Cork in Ireland, and the crop was worth £40 per acre. [Lord Sheffield's *considerations on American trade*, p. 106, sixth ed.]



or any part of Germany, were permitted to be shipped at any port in the dominions of the emperor of Germany or the house of Austria, subject to the duties payable on Rhenish wines and Italian silks. Timber and some other articles were also permitted to be imported from any part of Europe in vessels belonging to the subjects of the sovereign of the country, whereof the articles are the produce, though such country may not have been under the dominion of such sovereign, when the Navigation act was passed in the reign of Charles II. All goods imported under this act in foreign vessels, or being the property of foreigners, were still subject to alien's duty. [22 *Geo. III*, c. 78.]

In the beginning of the year 1780 Lord Shelburne (now marquis of Lansdown) in the house of lords, and Mr. Burke in the house of commons, made motions for a thorough reform in the national expenditure. The later, in a powerful speech, laid down as fundamental rules—that all unnecessary and oppressive jurisdictions should be abolished—all public estates, held for the purpose of creating influence rather than adding to the revenue, should be disposed of—all offices of little or no utility should either be suppressed, or ingrafted upon others—all offices, which obstruct the views and operations of the general superintendant of finance, should be abolished—an invariable order should be established in all payments, to prevent partiality—every establishment should be reduced to certainty in all its parts—all subordinate treasuries, as the nurseries of mismanagement, and as perplexing the public accounts, ought to be abolished.

Of all the branches of Mr. Burke's vast plan of reformation, the one, which chiefly concerns this work, was the abolition of the board of trade and plantations. Mr. Burke asserted, that that board had never been of any service to the commerce of this country, and, whenever they interfered, their injudicious tampering had been prejudicial; that they had never been of any use to the plantations or colonies. New England, Virginia, and all our wealthy colonies in the West-Indies, were settled before their establishment: Pennsylvania and Carolina were settled after the extinction of the first, and before the formation of the present, board, during the whole existence of which only Georgia and Nova Scotia were settled; two colonies which had cost more, and were less productive, than any of the others\*. He remarked, that, however ready administration might be to defend the board of trade and plantations, they were very cautious of employing them. They were not consulted on commercial points of the greatest importance; nor did any of the innumerable regulations for trade originate with that board. Not one of the East-India bills was planned there. The board had no

\* Mr. Burke forgot Canada, the two Floridas, and the four Ceded islands, which were formed into provinces after the peace of 1763 under in-

structions drawn up by the board of trade; and of these, the islands very soon became valuable and productive colonies.

concern in any of the commercial acts, such as they were, which were preludes to the American war. When commissioners were sent out to negotiate a peace with America, and an entire new commercial system was in contemplation, the board of trade were not consulted on that occasion, nor on the important changes made in the commercial system by the laws, which allowed Ireland to enjoy a free trade. A member of parliament, who was a lord of trade, vindicated the utility of the board: he appealed to their records, consisting of 2,300 volumes of interesting and important papers: and he adduced the names of Locke, Addison, Prior, Lord Moleworth, Charles Townsend, and many other respectable characters, who had been members of the board, as proofs of its importance. But these arguments were ridiculed by Mr. Burke. And the speaker of the house of commons declared, that the board was not only useless in its functions, but mischievous in its effects in regard to influence; for he considered it as efficient in no other respect\*.

Mr. Burke's plan of reform was rejected in the sessions of 1780 and 1781. But now, himself and his friends being in office, he again called the attention of the legislature to his proposals, which were more favourably received; in consequence whereof, on the second day of May 1782 the lords commissioners for trade and plantations severally received an official letter from the earl of Shelburne, one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state, informing them, that his Majesty had no further occasion for their services as lords of trade.—By this notification the business of the board of trade was discontinued, although it was not abolished till the act of parliament for that purpose passed on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July following, when

The office of third secretary of state, or secretary of state for the colonies, the board of trade and plantations, the lords of trade and police in Scotland, the principal offices in the board of works, and some others of the inefficient offices, were suppressed; and a new and economical plan was adopted for conducting several branches of the public expenditure. The duty and authority of the board of trade were

\* On the other side of the question, Lord Sheffield, whose opinion in commercial matters, will certainly be thought worthy of attention, says, 'It is a most extraordinary circumstance, that a nation, which states itself to be commercial, should not have a minister, or board, or person whatever, who necessarily attends, and applies to, comprehends, or considers, the state of commerce.'—'A committee of the privy council may now and then spare a moment to try a plantation cause: but it is an insult to the understanding of any man acquainted with this country to say, that the privy council will ever form or follow any system, examine into, and really un-

derstand, the concerns of commerce.'—'Boards of treasury and admiralty, comparatively, are of little consequence, the business of the commissioners or lords, except the first lord, being nearly, no more than officially to sign their names. If the board of trade gave improper influence, (which few people seem now [1783] to think it did) or was improperly filled up, the objections might have been removed, without the strangest neglect of our colonies and commerce by the abolition of the only board, which could be useful to both.' [*Observations on the commerce of the American states*, p. 261, sixth edition.]

transferred to a committee of the privy council, who are to act without salary, fee, or pension: and any public money, which was under the management of the lords of trade and police in Scotland, was transferred to the management of the convention of royal burghs. [22 *Geo. III, c. 82.*]

Several considerable improvements in London and the suburbs, and in other cities and towns, as also improvements of roads, and other matters of police throughout the kingdom; were carried on under the sanction of acts of this session of parliament.

In the beginning of this summer the emperor of Germany, being desirous of promoting the commerce of Trieste, the most considerable of his two ports in the Mediterranean, advanced four millions of florins to the merchants of that place to enable them to extend their commercial enterprises to Asia and Africa, and also to America.

In the course of this summer the Spaniards were driven from every one of the posts, which they had fortified on the Musquito shore in order to harass the British settlers.

August—Two of the small settlements belonging to the Hudson's-bay company, called Fort Prince of Wales and Fort York, were invaded by a French armament, consisting of one ship of 74 guns (the only ship of the line, that ever was in Hudson's bay) and two frigates of 36 guns each, with 250 soldiers, 40 artillery-men, cannons, mortars, &c. and commanded by Mr. Perouse, who was afterwards lost in a voyage of discovery in the South sea. Against so very formidable an attack the company's few servants had no defence, and consequently submitted at discretion. Mr. Perouse, according to his orders, demolished the forts, whereby the company lost property to the amount, as is said, of £500,000; and then he retired, having first humanely landed arms and provisions for the defence and support of some of the company's servants, who had fled into the woods on his approach.

The Dutch were deprived of Accra, Commenda, and most of their other trading posts, or forts, upon the western coast of Africa by British ships of war in the course of this year.

The king of France having advanced to the congress of the United States of America,

|  |   |                   |
|--|---|-------------------|
| from 28 <sup>th</sup> February to 1 <sup>st</sup> November 1778  | - | 3,000,000 livres, |
| from 10 <sup>th</sup> June to 21 <sup>st</sup> December 1779     | - | 1,000,000         |
| from 29 <sup>th</sup> February to 27 <sup>th</sup> November 1780 | - | 4,000,000         |
| from 15 <sup>th</sup> February to 15 <sup>th</sup> November 1781 | - | 4,000,000         |
| and from 10 <sup>th</sup> April to 5 <sup>th</sup> July 1782     | - | 6,000,000         |

the congress stood bound to pay the whole sum of 18,000,000 with interest at five per cent to the king's banker at Paris on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1788. But the king, desirous of showing kindness to his

American allies, instead of requiring the payment in one sum on a fixed day, proposed that it should be repaid in equal annual installments in twelve years, to begin the third year after the peace, with liberty for the congress to pay the debt sooner, if convenient for themselves : and he made them a present of all the interest, due, or accruing, till the day of the date of the treaty of peace\*.

The king was also security for 10,000,000 livres, borrowed for the congress from the Dutch on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 1781 with interest at five per cent, to be repaid by installments commencing on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 1787. And the whole of both debts was acknowledged in a treaty or contract, signed by Doctor Franklin, as ambassador for the United States, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July 1782, and confirmed by the congress in January following.

It was not till the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, that the Dutch finally completed with some very trifling alteration, and publicly confirmed, the treaty with America, which had been secretly negotiated in the year 1778. As a brief extract of that treaty has been already given, it would be superfluous to repeat it here†.

The nation being very clamorous for peace, and the events of the war having sufficiently convinced the advocates for the subjugation of America, that there was no probability of their object being accomplished, the parliament empowered the king to negotiate for a peace with the Americans : and Mr. Grenville was sent to Paris, fully authorized to treat with all the powers allied against Great Britain, and particularly to offer a preliminary and unconditional acknowledgement of the independence of the American states. The commanders in America were also directed to notify the pacific disposition of the British government to the American congress, who, however, declared, they would listen to no proposals for a pacification, but in conjunction with, and with the consent of, their allies. In truth, all the belligerent powers were now tired of the war. The French, though they had taken many of our West-India islands, had no reason to congratulate themselves upon the success of their interference : their commerce had suffered severely ; many of their merchants were ruined ; and even the national credit began to stagger under the weight of their own expenses and the supplies to America. The Spaniards found themselves totally disappointed of their expectations in every instance, except the conquest of Minorca ; that of Florida and the Bahama islands being no advantage to a nation, who already had too many unproductive distant settlements. The Dutch had at least as much reason to be tired of the war as any of their

\* In the year 1792 the United States had paid all the installments that were due, and also, to accommodate the French, who were then in want of money, a part of that which was not yet due.

[*Coxe's View of the United States*, p. 364, 370.]

† The chief difference is in the arrangement of the various articles, apparently with a view to make it appear different from the original.

allies, as they had acquired nothing, but lost many of their most valuable trading settlements, and almost all their trade, which, to a nation possessing so little land, is their all. This unfortunate war had likewise, by exposing their internal weakness, and by obliging them to rely on the assistance of France, sunk them into the condition of a province of that kingdom, and thrown them down from the rank they had hitherto held among the powers of Europe. Perhaps America, though the first cause and principal theatre of the war, suffered in most respects less than any of the other belligerent powers. The Americans had no distant territories to protect, or to lose: and, though deprived for a while of the use of some of their towns, they in fact lost not an inch of ground. The enormous expense of the armies, sent over to subdue them, in reality enriched them with a profusion of hard money, infinitely beyond what was ever seen in the country before: and their merchants were great gainers by the flour, provisions, and lumber, they were allowed, when the Spanish colonies began to feel the hardships of the war, to carry to the Havanna, for which they got principally gold and silver in return\*. But a long continuance of the war must have also become very distressing to America. The cultivation of the soil required the whole labour of a people, not yet sufficiently numerous to spare great numbers from productive industry, and whose export trade consisted mostly of rough produce, or such as had undergone only the first stage of manufacture. Therefor, in such a community the long-continued support of a great army must have become productive of ruinous consequences. The splendid and decisive victory gained by Rodney [in the West-Indies, and the brilliant defence of Gibraltar by General Elliot, we may presume, had their share in disposing to peaceful counsels the enemies of Great Britain, who, alone, and unallied, had successfully opposed her fleets to those of all the principal maritime powers of the world, while her commerce, if compared with that of her enemies, might be said to be but little depressed. Peace being thus the wish of all parties, the provisional articles for a treaty with America were signed at Paris on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November; and from that day, though the diplomatic formalities spun out the negotiations for many months, the war may be said to be at an end.

It has already been observed, that during the American war the quantity of British goods, really carried to, and consumed in, America, was not very much diminished by the interruption of the direct intercourse with that continent. [see above, p. 591] But besides the goods, which the Americans obtained by the circuitous trade of the neutral islands,

\* So lucrative was this trade, that, if half their vessels were taken, they were still able to carry it on with very great advantage. It was to the captures of some of those vessels, that our West-India

islands were indebted for a considerable part of their supplies from the year 1780 till the termination of the war.

what they got by the capture of British vessels, and what were smuggled into the revolted territories from Nova Scotia, (the exports to which will be found by the annual accounts of imports and exports to have increased prodigiously after the commencement of the war) from New York, and from Carolina and Georgia when in possession of the British troops, 'many ships, which cleared for New York and Halifax at the ports of London, Bristol, Liverpool, and those of Scotland, and Ireland, went at great risk, and in the face of the act of congress, directly to (the United States of) North America. One ship in particular, loaded with British goods, cleared from London for New York, but went directly to Boston; the cargo was sold wholesale for 270 per cent profit—what did the consumer pay, who bought the articles by retail? Several cargoes, that went to the American states, were paid for in ready money before their departure from England; and all this happened, when the markets of France, Holland, &c. were open to them.' [*Lord Sheffield's Observations on American commerce, p. 250, sixth ed.*]

Neither was the quantity of American produce, which found its way into the ports of Great Britain, so very much diminished, as might have been expected, when the Americans declared the ports of their country open to all the world, and the British vessels, which used to have a monopoly of the carrying-trade, were excluded from them. Considerable quantities of tobacco, the principal commercial article of American produce, were imported into Britain from the Dutch island of St. Eustathius, till the commencement of hostilities with the Dutch, and the subsequent capture of the island, shut up that free port. After that it was imported by the medium of the Danish island of St. Thomas: but a much greater quantity found its way into the British island of Tortola, which in the course of this year shipped almost a half of all the tobacco that came into the ports of Great Britain\*.

It is proper here also to take notice of a very profitable clandestine trade, which was said to be carried on, and, I believe to a very considerable amount, by some people, within the towns occupied by the British forces in America, and others, connected with them in the revolted states, by preconcerted friendly captures of vessels to be met with at a certain time and place, whose cargoes, consisting frequently of provisions, sometimes of tobacco, &c. came to a most excellent ready-money market by being sold at vendue (auction) as prizes. Articles of provisions

|   |             |   |                  |
|---|-------------|---|------------------|
| * The tobacco imported this year was, in England  |             | - | 7,203,262 pounds |
| in Scotland   |             | - | 2,624,807        |
|   |             |   | 9,828,069        |
| of which there came from Tortola,   | to England  | - | 3,274,909        |
|   | to Scotland | - | 1,505,057        |
|   |             |   | 4,779,966        |
| The remainder, partly produced in, and partly smuggled into, Carolina and East Florida, partly the produce of capture, or smuggled into the West-India islands, and partly imported from the continent of Europe, was |             |   | 5,048,103        |



especially sold at monstrous prices, in consequence of the very crowded state of the towns, which had almost no back country, acknowledging the British government, to supply them.

An estimate was made, by order of the congress, of the numbers of inhabitants in the United States, in order to proportion the assessments upon each state, which was as follows.

|                     |   |                           |               |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| New Hampshire       | - | 82,200 inhabitants, being | 34 thousandth |
| parts of the whole. |   |                           |               |
| Massachusetts bay   | - | 350,000                   | 147           |
| Rhode island        | - | 50,400                    | 21            |
| Connecticut         | - | 206,000                   | 86            |
| New York            | - | 200,000                   | 84            |
| New Jersey          | - | 130,000                   | 54            |
| Pennsylvania        | - | 320,000                   | 134           |
| Delaware            | - | 35,000                    | 15            |
| Maryland            | - | 220,700                   | 92            |
| Virginia            | - | 400,000                   | 167           |
| North Carolina      | - | 200,000                   | 84            |
| South Carolina      | - | 170,000                   | 71            |
| Georgia             | - | 25,000                    | 11            |

|  |   |             |   |   |       |
|--|---|-------------|---|---|-------|
| Total of inhabitants of<br>all ages, colours, and<br>conditions, | } | 2,389,300 * | - | - | 1,000 |
|  |   |             |   |   |       |

December 23<sup>d</sup>.—The harvest having been dreadfully deficient this year, the parliament allowed the importation of all kinds of grain, upon payment of low duties, which was to continue till the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 1783 in England, and till the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 1783 in Scotland. [23 Geo. III, c. 1.]

A view of the increase of the Scottish herring fishery from the year 1751 to the year 1776, has already been given; and the decline of it after that year has also been noticed [pp. 395, 633.] The following view of its declining state during the war, and also of the exportation of

\* This estimate was censured as too high by Lord Sheffield, who observes, that the best accounts state the number of whites in the American states as not exceeding 1,700,000 [*Considerations on the commerce of America*, p. 239, sixth ed.] He does not say any thing of the number of negro slaves: but if the estimated proportion of 10 negroes to 11 whites be nearly true, it makes the total number in the estimate correspond very well with that number of whites. Mr. Coxe shows, apparently upon good grounds, that the estimate

was rather under, than above, the truth: and Mr. Jefferson makes it exceedingly probable, that the number in Virginia this year was 567,614, of whom 270,762 were slaves. Succeeding enumerations, more accurately taken, show, that the numbers have increased in all the states with astonishing rapidity. [See Coxe's *View of the United States*, pp. 197, 280.—Jefferson's *Notes on Virginia*, p. 143.—See also Tatnam's *Political economy of inland navigation*, p. 36.]

herrings and cod from Scotland, is taken from the official accounts, made up in the custom-house at Edinburgh by Mr. Boyd, examiner of falt and fishery accounts.

| Years | Busses. | tunnage. | men.  | Barrels of<br>herrings<br>taken. | Exported     |                |                   |        |      |                      | Bounties paid<br>to busses, and<br>on exportation<br>of fish. |    |    |
|-------|---------|----------|-------|----------------------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|--------|------|----------------------|---|----|----|
|       |         |          |       |                                  | Herrings     |                |                   | Cod    |      |                      |   |    |    |
|       |         |          |       |                                  | red,<br>bar. | white,<br>bar. | total<br>barrels. | cwt.   | bar. | number,<br>hundreds. |   |    |    |
| 1777  | 240     | 11,727   | 2,600 | 43,313                           | 800          | 41,217½        | 42,017½           | 12,302 |      | 441                  | 25,104  | 8  | 1  |
| 1778  | 220     | 10,877   | 2,504 | 40,958                           | 843          | 35,620         | 36,463            | 8,727  |      | 110                  | 22,475  | 18 | 4  |
| 1779  | 206     | 10,191   | 2,343 | 29,367                           | 334          | 32,110         | 32,444            | 6,583  |      | 63                   | 20,600  | 17 | 0  |
| 1780  | 181     | 8,963    | 2,061 | 19,885                           | 119          | 25,122         | 25,241            | 13,703 | 6    | 789                  | 19,058  | 19 | 11 |
| 1781  | 136     | 6,449    | 1,494 | 16,593                           | 190          | 14,082½        | 14,272½           | 14,485 |      | 16                   | 13,746  | 0  | 1  |
| 1782  | 147     | 7,291    | 1,667 | 13,457                           |              | 12,522½        | 12,522½           | 14,038 | 184½ | 144                  | 14,414  | 12 | 10 |

It must be observed that the numbers of barrels taken, here stated, include only those taken in the first voyage in each season, called the *bounty voyage*. But, as the busses often made a second, and sometimes even a third, voyage, and as the herrings taken in those after voyages are believed to be, one year with another, equal to those taken in the bounty voyages, the real quantity of herrings caught and cured by the busses may be fairly estimated at double the quantity here stated. The number of herrings taken by boats, and consumed fresh, or slightly falted, in the country, of which no account is taken, must also be prodigiously great; especially when an extraordinary plenty, and consequently low price, encourages the cadgers (higglers) to carry them as far as possible into the inland parts of the country.

The precarious nature of the fishery appears very strongly from the great inequality of the exportation from the same port. Campbelltown, which in the year 1755 exported 24,436 barrels, and has been generally one of the chief ports of Scotland for the exportation of herrings, exported this year only 396 barrels. Stranrawer in the year 1758 exported 13,121 barrels, and has in some years exported none at all. Cod is chiefly exported from Shetland, next to which Campbelltown, and of later years sometimes Stornoway and Aberdeen, have been the chief fishing places for the exportation of cod\*.

The exportation of falmon, which formerly used to be a very considerable branch of Scottish trade, is now almost entirely annihilated by the demand for the consumption of London: and it is thought that the method of conducting the fishery in the rivers is annually diminishing the breed of falmon.

The following view of the trade of England in herrings and cod,

\* These comparative remarks are taken from Mr. Boyd's account, which is too bulky to be inserted entire.

during the same years, is extracted from accounts laid before the house of commons.

| Years | Herrings         |                    |                   |                     |                    | Cod<br>exported,<br>cwt. | Total of bounties<br>paid on vessels,<br>and on exporta-<br>tion of herrings<br>and cod †. |
|-------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--|
|       | exported         |                    |                   | consumed at home    |                    |                          |  |
|       | red,<br>barrels. | white,<br>barrels. | total<br>barrels. | red,<br>thousands*. | white,<br>barrels. |                          |  |
| 1777  | 12,115           | 11,775½            | 23,890½           | 12,898,357          | 6,765              | 3,473                    | 4,024 9 0  |
| 1778  | 12,703½          | 11,738             | 24,441½           | 11,235,909          | 5,814              | 3,539                    | 3,666 4 6  |
| 1779  | 18,942½          | 13,829             | 32,771½           | 19,327,045          | 8,352              | 495                      | 3,583 15 0   |
| 1780  | 24,083½          | 7,697½             | 31,781            | 13,350,544          | 3,744              | 4,139                    | 3,925 10 0   |
| 1781  | 19,386           | 12,513             | 31,899            | 12,769,786          | 4,394              | 6,905                    | 4,493 12 6   |
| 1782  | 21,091           | 14,268½            | 35,359½           | 12,944,130          | 1,563              | 1,341                    | 3,970 10 0   |

The fishery of pilchards on the coast of Cornwall is also a considerable object, affording employment to above 3,000 fishermen besides the seamen employed in carrying the fish to foreign markets, which are chiefly the ports in the Mediterranean, and in importing salt, staves, and other materials for the fishery, and four or five thousand people employed in the businesses connected with it on shore. Pilchards are so much in request in the Italian states, that the orders from them for lead, tin, copper, leather, &c. have been often conditional, that if such a quantity of pilchards could not be sent, the other articles could not be received: and the Venetian government allowed British vessels importing a certain proportion of pilchards to take in currants at their islands, though the carriage of that fruit was restricted to their own vessels. The annual export of this fish on an average of ten years 1747-1756 was about 30,000 hogsheds; but it had now declined to 12,000 or 13,000.

The herring fishery on the Yarmouth coast has also declined very much. At this time it employed only 94 vessels; whereas in the year 1760 it employed 205 of from 30 to 100 tons, and gave employment to about 6,000 men, women, boys, and girls, besides 30 or 40 vessels from Folkestone, Hastings, &c. which have now deserted it entirely. For about twenty years preceding 1760 the annual capture of herrings on the Norfolk coast was above 47,000 barrels, of which about 38,000 were exported. The fishery, which the people of Yarmouth, with the assistance of the Shetland fishermen, used to carry on, in about two hundred vessels of from 40 to 60 tons, in the neighbourhood of Iceland, where the cod most saleable in the Spanish and Italian markets are

\* The numbers here given are the totals of each year, according to the account made up at the salt office in July 1784 by order of the committee of the house of commons. But they appear unaccountably great, being, independent of the barrels, far beyond a thousand red herrings for every person, young and old, in all England and Wales;

whereas, I think, it may be doubted, whether every individual, one with another, consumes twenty red herrings in a year. Quere, if for *thousands* we should not read *single herrings*?

† For the sums in this column I am indebted to Doctor Anderfon. See his *State of the Hebrides* (Western islands) p. 446.

caught, has been annihilated by the operation of the salt laws. Several gentlemen from Yarmouth informed the committee of the house of commons that they would willingly revive that fishery, if it should be relieved from the oppression of those laws.

In consequence of the liberal encouragement, given to the fisheries by the parliament of Ireland, [see above, p. 405] the herring fishery of that country was now considerably advanced. The Irish, however, still continued to import herrings to answer the great demand for the West-Indies. The following is a view of the progress of their trade in that article.

|  | Imported.           |                        | Exported. |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|-----------|
|  | from Great Britain. | from the East country. |           |
| Annual average number of barrels from 1756 to 1764 i. e. before the bounty             | 23,201              | 1,847                  | 25,048    |
| D <sup>o</sup> . from 1764 to 1773   | 16,657              | 25,365                 | 42,022    |
| D <sup>o</sup> . from 25 <sup>th</sup> March 1763 to 25 <sup>th</sup> March 1767       |                     |                        | 32,824    |
| D <sup>o</sup> . from 25 <sup>th</sup> March 1779 to 25 <sup>th</sup> March 1783       |                     |                        | 24,273    |
| In the year ending 25 <sup>th</sup> March 1773 of which there were for the West-Indies |                     |                        | 4,324     |
|  |                     |                        | 48,481½   |
|  |                     |                        | 35,960    |

Such have been the decrease of the imports, and the increase of the exports, since the commencement of the public encouragement.

The other articles of fish exported from Ireland to any amount, in the year ending 25<sup>th</sup> March 1783, were

- cod 272 barrels,  
hake 1,367 cwt,  
and salmon 253 tuns,

In the year 1780 the herring fishery in Loch Swilly employed 130 bounty vessels, which expended 1,708 tuns of salt, wherewith they cured, by computation - - - 51,240 maize\*.

In the same season 71 vessels from Liverpool and Mann purchased in the same loch - - - 39,000  
for making red herrings, at 10d per hundred,  
amounting to £8,125.

In 1781 there were 147 bounty vessels in Loch Swilly, which expended 1,914 tuns of salt, and cured 57,420

And 117 vessels from Liverpool and Mann bought 49,950  
for which they paid £12,487 : 10 : 0.

The total taken in the two years - 197,610 maize,  
or 98,805,000 herrings, besides what were used fresh in the adjacent country.

\* A maize contains 500 herrings.

A great proportion of the herrings imported from Scotland is consumed in the country, being preferred on account of their superior curing; the rest are repacked in Irish barrels of 28 gallons for exportation. Those from the East country, which used to be sold in Ireland so low as 14/ a barrel, are also repacked for exportation to the West-Indies in Irish barrels\*.

The Irish have great advantages in the herring fishery. The arrival of the herrings, so precarious upon the extensive west coast of Scotland, is certain on the north-west coast of Ireland; and they swim close to the shore. The fishery is free from restrictions, and the adventurers either fish themselves, or purchase from the fishers, as they find most convenient, whereby they are often enabled to complete their loading in two or three days, and to make several trips during one fishing season, which generally lasts six weeks, or two months. And thus they can obtain a much greater quantity of fish in the same space of time, and also run their cargoes much earlier to a market, than the British fisherman, who is tied down by restrictive laws to lose a great deal of time, and support a very heavy expence, that he may be entitled to the bounty.

The certainty, and great abundance, of herrings have induced many of the fishermen of England and Scotland to prefer the Irish fishing grounds to those of their own coasts. But there is an unneighbourly jealousy upon the subject of the fisheries between the Irish and the Scots, greatly against the true interests of both. There are surely herrings enough in the sea for both: and, if the fishery is wisely and harmoniously conducted, markets may be found, notwithstanding the decline of popery, sufficient to employ the industry of both to great advantage.

Upon the whole, the Irish fishery may be considered now as but in its infancy. But if Nature and the legislature shall continue to favour it, as they have hitherto done, it must undoubtedly in a few years surmount all rivalry, at least in Great Britain, unless an entire new system of fishery laws shall be adopted.

As the fish trade of Ireland was formerly so much connected with that of Sweden, it may be proper here to give some account of the later. For above twenty years past about 200,000 barrels had been annually cured on the Swedish coast in the neighbourhood of Gottenburgh. The exports from thence to Ireland, which used to be very considerable, were now, as we have just seen, greatly reduced by the improved state of the Irish fishery. Several cargoes of Swedish herrings were sent to St. Eustathius in the years 1779 and 1780, whence they found their way into the various sugar islands. In the French West-

\* The legal measure of herring barrels in Britain is 32 gallons; and it appears to be the same in Sweden; but the information respecting their measure varies.

Indies they were not admitted, and few went to France. The principal markets were within the Baltic sea, as will appear by the following

*Account of exports of herrings from Gottenburgh*

| in the years  | 1775   | 1776    | 1777    | 1779    | 1780    | 1781    |
|---|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| To Cork and other ports in Ireland  | 25,836 | 56,400  | 19,267  | 7,313   | 13,243  |         |
| Madeira, and the West-Indies }<br>(chiefly St. Eustathius)                                | 6,278  | 7,437   | 5,826   | 20,849  | 7,281   | 2,700   |
| France and the Mediterranean  | 300    | 4,267   | 5,413   | 8,369   | 12,615  | 24,225  |
| Different ports in the Baltic not }<br>subject to Sweden                                  | 41,552 | 37,091  | 64,463  | 58,069  | 44,747  | 80,474  |
| Different ports of Sweden   | 20,627 | 23,272  | 37,075  | 40,485  | 28,778  | 29,250  |
| Totals of barrels measuring 32 }<br>gallons*, and containing about }<br>900 herrings each | 94,593 | 128,467 | 132,046 | 135,085 | 106,664 | 136,649 |

So superabundant was the capture of herrings on the Swedish shore, that it exceeded every possible demand for them; and they were obliged to boil many millions of them for oil, one barrel of which was obtained from eighteen barrels of herrings. In the year 1781 they exported to the Baltic, Holland, and Spain, 14,542 barrels of herring oil of about 42 gallons each; and from 1,000 to 1,500 barrels were annually consumed in the country. But the herring oil is greatly inferior to whale oil, or even liver oil, and is liable to congeal in cold weather to a consistence something like honey †.

The herring fishery of Holland, once so pre-eminently great and flourishing, employed now only 200 buffes of about 26 tuns burthen.

The French for some few years past had caught some herrings of an indifferent quality upon their own coast, part of which they dried for the Mediterranean trade, but the greatest part was shipped for their West-India settlements.

The war was of some service to the city of Dantzick in reviving its commerce. In the course of this year 549 vessels sailed from that port, many of which were employed to great advantage in carrying timber for the use of the British navy; and 502 arrived, not one of which was under Dutch colours, though many of them were, probably, Dutch property.

\* So the size of the barrel is stated by the author of this information. But from a number of other authorities the Swedish barrels appear to contain *thirty-six* gallons.

† The oil-makers used to throw the refuse of the herrings into the sea, which practice, being thought prejudicial to the fishery and to naviga-

tion, was prohibited by an edict from the king. The oil-makers remonstrated, and were permitted to make some experiments, which, as they alleged, proved, that the fishery was improved by throwing the refuse into the sea. Strange, that it should not occur to them, how valuable so vast a quantity of animal substance must be as a manure!



The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Christmas 1781 to Christmas 1782 was as follows.

| Countries, &c.            | Imported into   |              | Exported from    |               |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|
|                           | ENGLAND.        | SCOTLAND.    | ENGLAND.         | SCOTLAND.     |
| Africa                    | £68,475 16 5    |              | £351,734 18 5    |               |
| Canaries                  | 1,341 12 11     |              |                  |               |
| Denmark and Norway        | 73,038 9 2      | £31,640 10 7 | 164,732 2 4      | £34,575 11 5  |
| East country              | 332,738 7 2     |              | 130,524 7 0      |               |
| East-India                | 626,319 8 5     |              | 1,467,844 10 11  |               |
| Flanders                  | 1,083,092 6 5   | 92,300 4 2   | 2,069,983 7 1    | 65,559 8 2    |
| France                    | 4,783 13 6      |              | 8,153 11 2       |               |
| Germany                   | 524,882 14 2    | 13,636 15 8  | 1,549,745 11 8   | 19,417 17 2   |
| Greenland                 | 39,536 1 2      | 1,420 16 0   | 91 4 0           |               |
| Holland                   | 2,485 12 7      | 6,522 6 8    | 90,933 17 4      |               |
| Iceland                   |                 | 37 10 0      |                  |               |
| Ireland                   | 1,348,510 11 10 | 149,889 19 4 | 1,715,889 0 7    | 201,182 19 10 |
| Mann                      | 15,644 9 6      | 253 4 0      | 28,059 12 6      | 176 19 1      |
| Italy                     | 177,698 8 8     |              | 498,163 10 4     | 975 0 0       |
| Madeira                   | 13,867 7 6      |              | 30,256 13 2      |               |
| Poland                    |                 | 12,695 13 9  |                  | 43 11 0       |
| Prussia                   |                 | 14,863 5 10  |                  | 3,325 2 2     |
| Portugal                  | 280,654 14 6    | 8,657 13 1   | 687,324 11 10    | 2,800 15 10   |
| Russia                    | 1,185,844 14 4  | 203,804 14 8 | 196,577 9 10     | 11,165 8 8    |
| Spain                     | 144,541 12 5    |              |                  |               |
| Gibraltar                 | 21 2            |              | 4,046 19 4       |               |
| Straits                   | 344 3 4         |              | 9,451 10 0       |               |
| Sweden                    | 163,219 7 11    | 22,698 12 0  | 56,083 2 7       | 7,629 18 6    |
| Turkey                    | 41,325 10 7     |              | 4,248 3 0        |               |
| Venice                    | 53,540 16 4     |              | 42,113 4 0       |               |
| Guernsey, &c.             | 69,684 10 9     | 7,171 1 1    | 87,809 1 10      | 1,782 0 2     |
| America in general        |                 | 110,637 10 5 |                  | 23,311 4 0    |
| Hudsons bay               | 6,801 18 8      |              | 8,188 8 11       |               |
| Newfoundland              | 68,825 4 10     |              | 125,388 16 5     |               |
| Quebec                    | 144,291 7 10    |              | 496,579 8 3      |               |
| Nova Scotia               | 2,943 5 10      |              | 71,505 5 2       |               |
| New York                  | 7,690 3 2       |              | 186,242 4 5      |               |
| Carolina                  | 14,182 4 2      |              | 69,742 15 8      |               |
| Georgia                   | 6,804 1 10      |              | 339 15 0         |               |
| Florida                   | 30,935 13 6     |              | 4,707 0 11       |               |
| West Indies in general    |                 | 132,791 18 5 |                  | 231,762 17 10 |
| Anguilla                  | 48,239 18 6     |              | 5,297 7 2        |               |
| Antigua                   | 231,019 5 5     |              | 131,438 9 2      |               |
| Barbados                  | 176,099 2 5     |              | 201,314 13 5     |               |
| Bermuda                   | 880 15 11       |              | 16,649 9 8       |               |
| Jamaica                   | 1,157,121 0 11  |              | 670,669 7 7      |               |
| Montserrat                | 47,695 14 9     |              | 428 14 10        |               |
| Nevis                     | 47,386 16 9     |              | 4,387 2 5        |               |
| New Providence            | 1,034 14 4      |              |                  |               |
| St. Christophers          | 248,916 0 4     |              | 23,304 17 8      |               |
| St. Croix                 |                 |              | 850 0 0          |               |
| St. Eustathius            | 7,637 18 7      |              |                  |               |
| St. Lucia                 | 258,141 16 11   |              | 139,553 6 9      |               |
| St. Martins               | 40,580 16 1     |              | 442 7 5          |               |
| St. Thomas                | 3,952 10 5      |              | 222,632 10 7     |               |
| Tobago                    | 4,109 7 10      |              | 1,893 5 10       |               |
| Tortola                   | 161,368 1 2     |              | 92,720 12 2      |               |
| Demararay                 | 47,913 1 4      |              |                  |               |
| New Orleans               | 4,426 11 10     |              | 14,318 3 1       |               |
| Southern fishery          | 94 5 0          |              |                  |               |
| Prize goods               | 521,007 3 1     |              | 663,089 7 9      |               |
| Imp. and exp. of England  | 9,532,606 19 8  |              | 12,355,750 0 1   |               |
| Imp. and exp. of Scotland | 809,021 15 8    | 809,021 15 8 | 653,708 13 10    | 653,708 13 10 |
| Total, Great Britain      | 10,341,628 15 4 |              | 13,009,458 13 11 |               |

|   |   |               |
|---|---|---------------|
| There belonged this year to all the ports |   |               |
| of England                                | 6,495 vessels of the reputed burthen of | 537,257 tuns; |
| and of Scotland                           | 1,441                                   | 78,024        |
| Total                                     | 7,936                                   | 615,281       |

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain, from and to foreign countries, including repeated voyages,

|           | British  |         | Foreign  |         | Total.   |         |
|-----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
|           | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.   | Vessels. | Tuns.   |
| Inward -  | 4,652    | 496,907 | 2,582    | 280,346 | 7,234    | 777,253 |
| Outward - | 6,973    | 625,731 | 2,314    | 225,781 | 9,287    | 851,512 |

The net amount of the customs, including the West-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the course of the year, was  
 from the custom-house in London £2,801,563 0 9  
 and from the custom-house in Edinburgh 60,000 0 0

Total net revenue of the customs of Great Britain £2,861,563 0 9

There were coined at the mint in the course of the year  
 14,940 pounds of gold, value £698,074 7 0  
 and no silver.







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